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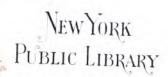
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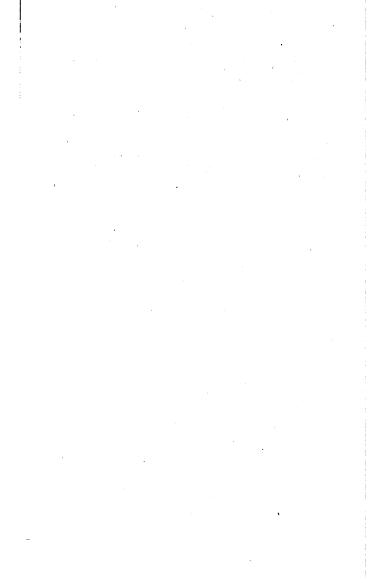




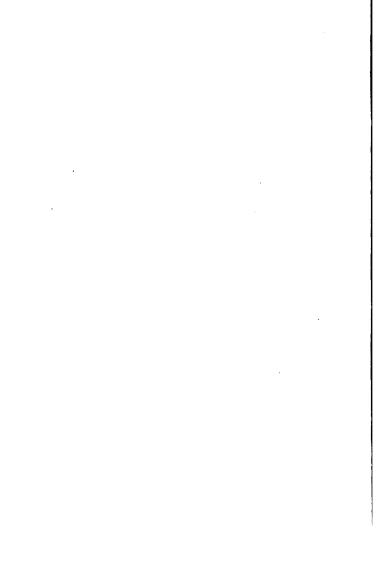
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JULY 27TH 1908

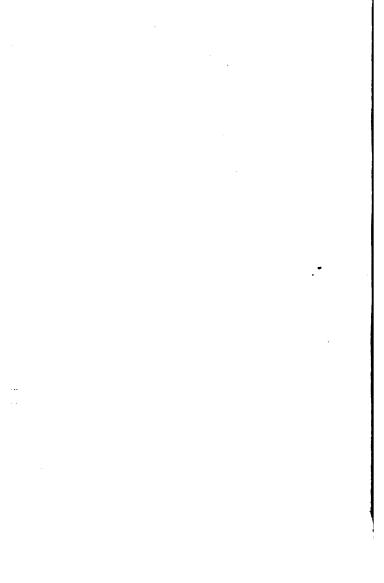








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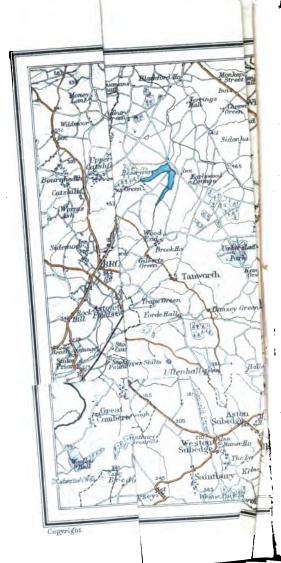
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STRATFORD-ON-AVON

AND THE

SHAKESPEARE COUNTRY

BY

HAROLD CHILD

LONDON GRANT RICHARDS
48 LEICESTER SQUARE
1902

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A GUIDE TO STRATFORD-ON-A VON

Railways

Banbury—Stations: G.W.R. and L. & N.W.R. adjoining, E. of town. From London, G.W.R. Time, from 2½ hours. From Glasgow and Leeds, via Birmingham. From Birmingham, G.W.R.

Evesham—Stations: M.R. & G.W.R. adjoining, N. of town. From London, G.W.R. Time from 2½ hours. From Glasgow and Leeds, via Birmingham. From Birmingham, G.W.R.

Leamington—Stations: G.W.R., Warwick Road; L. & N.W.R., Avenue Road. From London, G.W.R. or L. & N.W.R; Time, from 2 hours. From Glasgow and Leeds, via Birmingham. From Birmingham, G.W.R.

Bugby—Stations: L. & N.W.K., N. of town; G.C.R., S.-E. of town. From London, L. & N.W.R. Time, from 12 hours. From Glasgow, L. & N.W.R., main line. From Leeds, M.R., via Leicester. From Birmingham, L. & N.W.R., via Coventry.

Stratford-on-Avon—Stations: G.W.R., Alcester Road; E. & W.J.R., S. of town. From London, G.W.R., via Leamington and Warwick; L. & N.W.R., via Blisworth, Fenny Compton and E. & W.J.R. Through carriages on most trains. Time, from 3 hours. From Glasgow and Leeds, via Birmingham-From Birmingham, G.W.R.

Warwick—Station: G.W.R., Coventry Road. From London, Time, from 2½ hours. From Glasgow and Leeds, via Birmingham.

The following places also have stations:-

G.W.R. Gt. Alne, Bearley, Chipping Campden, Claverdon, Cropredy, Fladbury, Fenny Compton, Hatton, Henley-in-Arden, Honeybourne, Kingswood (near Packwood), Knowle, Littleton and Badsey, Longdon Road (near Shipston), Long Marston, Milcote, Shipston, Southam Road and Harbury, Wilmcote.

L. & N.W.R. Birdingbury, Brandon, Dunchurch, Farthinghoe, Fenny Compton, Flecknoe, Long Itchington, Kenilworth,

Milverton, Marton, Napton and Stockton.

- M.R. Alcester, Alvechurch, Barnt Green, Bengeworth, Blackwell, Bromsgrove, Broom, Coughton, Harvington, Hinton, Redditch, Salford Priors, Studley and Astwood Bank, Wixford.
- E. & W.J.R. Binton, Broom, Byfield, Ettington, Fenny Compton, Kineton.
- G.C.R. Clifton Mill, Willoughby.

2 A GUIDE TO STRATFORD-ON-AVON

Hotels. —(The prices quoted are in every case the lowest.)

movers. —(The pric	cs q	JOLEG	aic	m c	cry	Last	the i	Owest. j
	Bed.	Breakfast	Lunch.	Tea.	Dinner.	Bath.	Attendance.	Inclusive Terms.
Alcester— Swan, Fam. Com. C.T.C. Stables	2/	1/	1/	1/	2/	/6	1/	
Banbury— Red Lion (High Street), Fam. Com. Stables White Lion (High Street), Fam. Com. C.T.C. Stables	2/6 2/6	1/6	2 / 1/6	1/	2/6 3/	/6 /6	1/6	
Bromsgrove— Golden Cross (High Street), Fam. Com. C. T. C. Stables	2/	1/9	2/	1/	2/6	1/	1/	
Chipping Campden—Noel Arms (High Street), Fam. Com. C.T.C. Stables Lygon Arms (High Street), Fam. Com. C.T.C. Stables	1/6	1/9	2/	1/6	2/6	/6	3d. per meal	·
Evesham— Crown (High Street), Fam. Com. Stables	2/6	1/3	1/6	1/	3/	/6	1/6	
Kenilworth— The Abbey (Priory Road), Fam. Stables, C.T.C. Tennis Court, Bowling-green. King's Arms (The Square	2/6	1/6	2/6	1/6	3/	/6	1/6	2½ gs. a week. Week-end, 21/.
Manor House (Spencer Street), Fam. Stables, Tennis courts, Archery, Boating, Fishing. Special terms for families, and in winter. Table d'hote	3 <i>/</i> 6	2/	2/6	2/	3/6	/6	1/6	3 gs.

Hotels-continued

	Bed.	Breakfast.	Lunch.	Tea.	Dinner.	Bath.	Attendance.	Inclusive Terms.
Leamington-	_ '	_		—			4	
continued Regent (Parade), Fam. Stables. Table d'hote. Clarendon (Parade), Fam. Stables.	3/	2/			5/		1/6	31 gs.
Table d'hote Bicycle house Lansdowne (private) Parade.	3/6	2/	2/6	1/6	5/	/6	1/6	By arrange- ment.
Table d'hote Crown (near Stations), Fam. Com. Bath (Bath Street), Fam. Com.	2/6	1/6	2/6	1/6	2/6	/6	1/6	6/ a day, 35/ a week. 7/6 a day.
C.T.C. Guernsey (Church Street), Fam.	2/6	1/6	2/	1/6	2/6	/6	1/6	
Com. C. T. C. Table d'hote Washington (Parade), Fam. Com.	2/ 2/	1/			2/6		/9	35/ a week.
Cobden (High Street), Temp.	1/6	19		/9	1/		nil	2 gs. a week.
Redditch— Unicorn (Unicorn Hill), Fam. Com. C.T.C. Royal (Market Place), Fam. Com.	2/	2/ 1/	1/3	1/6	2/6 2/6	/6 /6	1/	
Rugby— Royal George, (Market Place),	-'	-′	-//3	2,0	2,0	,,,	,"	
Fam. Stables, Table d'hote Horse Shoes (Sheep	3/	1/6	1/			/6	1/6	
Street), Fam. Com	2/6	1/	2/	1/	2/6	/6	1/6	
Fam. Com. C.T.C.	2/	1/6		1/	2/6		nil	
Shipston— White Horse (Church Street), Fam. Com. Stables	2/	1/6				/6	ni	By arrange- ment.
Southam— Craven Arms (High Street), C. T. C. Stables	1/6	1/3	1/9	r/	1/2			By arrange- ment.

A GUIDE TO STRATFORD-ON-AVON

Hotels-continued.

	Red.	Breakfast.	Lunch.	Tea.	Dinner.	Bath.	Attendance	Inclusive Terms.
Stratford— Shakespeare (Chapel Street). Fam. Stables	3/	2/6	2/6		4/6	1/	1/6	By arrange-
Red Horse (Bridge Street), Fam. Com. Stables Unicorn (Bridge Foot), Fam. Com.	2/6	2/6	2/6		3/6		1/6	ment. 10/6 — 12/6 a day.
Stables	2/6 2/6	1/3	1/9.	1/	2/6 2/	/6	r/ nil	2} gs. a week.
Fountain (Rother Street), Temp. C.T.C Victoria (Wood Street), Temp.	2/	1/	1/		2/6	<i>J</i> 6	nil	
C.T.C	1/6	1/	1/6	/6	2/6	/6	nil	
(High Street), Fam. Stables Woolpack (Market Square), Fam. Stables, C.T.C. Special terms for								
long stay or in winter Dale (Old Square), Temp. Com	2/6 1/6	2/6 /9	2/6 1/	1/6 /6	3/6 1/6	/6	1/6 nil	10/6 a day, 3 gs. a week. 5/6 a day, 35/ a week

Churches. — BANBURY. — Church of England: Parish Church (St Mary's), Horse Fair; Christ Church, Broad Street; Roman Catholic, South Bar; Baptist, Bridge Street; Congregational, South Bar; Friends, Horse Fair; The Brethren, Cadbury Memorial Hall, Bridge Street; Primitive Methodist, Church Lane; Unitarian, Horse Fair; Wesleyan, Marlborough Road. Church of England, 8, 10.45, 6.30; daily at St Mary's; Baptist and Congregational, 10.45, 6.30; Unitarian, 6.30 P.M. only; others, 10.30, 6.30.

EVESHAM.—Church of England, Parish Churches: All Saints, St Lawrence, St Peter, Bengeworth; Roman Catholic (St Mary's) High Street; Baptist, Cowl Street; Friends, Cowl Street; The Brethren, Mill Hill; Unitarian, Oak Street; Wesleyan Methodist, Chapel Street. Church of England, 8, 11, 6, 30; daily at All Saints; St Lawrence, 11 only; Roman Catholic, 9, 11, 6, 30; Unitarian, 11, 6, 30; others, 10, 30, 6, 30.

LEAMINGTON. — Church of England: Parish Church (All Saints), Church Street; St Alban's, Warwick Street; Christ Church, Beauchamp Square; St John's, Tachbrook Street; St Mark's, Milverton, Rugby Road; St Mary's, St Mary's Road; St Paul's, Leicester Street; Holy Trinity, Beauchamp Square; Roman Catholic (St Peter's), Dormer Avenue; Baptist, Clarendon Street; and Warwick Street; Catholic Apostolic, Leam Terrace; Congregational, Spencer Street; and Clemens Street (Free); St Luke's Chapel, Holly Walk; United Free Methodist, Warwick Street; Trinity Wesleyan Methodist, High Street; Wesleyan, Portland Place. All 11 and 6.30; All Saints, 7, 8 A.M., and daily, 7.30, 8, 11, 5.30.

RUGBY.—Church of England: Parish Church (St Andrew's), Church Street; St Peter's, Clifton Road; Holy Trinity, Church Street; Parish Church (St Matthew), Warwick Street; Roman Catholic (St Marie's), Dunchurch Road; Baptist, Castle Street; Congregational, Albert Street; Primitive Methodist, Railway Terrace; Wesleyan, Market Place; and Cambridge Street. All 11, 7, except Roman Catholic, 10.30, 6; Baptist, Congregational, and Primitive Methodist,

10.45, 6.30; Wesleyan, 10.30, 6.30. STRATFORD. — Church of England:

STRATFORD. — Church of England: Parish Church, Holy Trinity. St James', Guild Street; Shottery St Andrew; All Saints, Luddington; Guild Chapel of the Holy Cross, Chapel Street; St Peter, Bishopton. Roman Catholic: St Gregory the Great, Warwick Road; Baptist, Payton Street; Congregational, Rother Street; The Brethren, Guild Street; and Scholar's Lane; Primitive Methodist, Great William Street; Unitarian, Tyler Street; Wesleyan, Birmingham Road. Church of England, 11, 7; daily at Holy Trinity; Roman Catholic, 10, 30, 6, 30; Baptist and Congregational, 10, 45, 6, 30; Primitive Methodist and Wesleyan, 11, 6, 30.

WARWICK.—Church of England: Parish Church, St Mary's; Parish Church, St Nicholas, Banbury Road; St Paul's, Friars Street; All Saints, Emscote; Warwick School Chapel, Myton Poad (visitors admitted). Roman Catholic: St Mary Immaculate, West Street; Baptist, Castle Hill; Congregational, Brook Street; Friends, 39 High Street; Gospel Hall, Cherry Street; Meeting Room, Leycester Place, West Street; Primitive Methodist, Stand Street; Unitarian, High Street; Wesleyan, Northgate; and Avon Street, Emscote. All II, 6.30, except St Nicholas, II, 7. Warwick School Chapel, II, 6.45. Primitive Methodist, 3, 6.30. Daily at

Church of England.

Postal Arrangements.—BANBURY—Head office: High Street. Hours, 7 A.M. to 9 P.M. Sub-offices: Grimsbury, Market Place, Warwick Road. Hours, 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. Deliveries: 7 and 10.30 A.M.; 2.30 and 6.55 P.M. Despatches: London, 6 daily; first, 7.5 A.M.; last, 7 P.M.; Birmingham, 5 daily; first, 8.50 A.M.; last, 12 midnight; general, 7 P.M. Telephone—28 Bridge Street.

EVESHAM.—Head office: Market Place. Hours, 7 A.M. to 9 P.M. Sub-office: Bengeworth. Hours, 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. Deliveries: 7 A.M., 1.15 (except Saturday), and 7.45 P.M. Despatches: London, 11.25 A.M., 1.10 and 7.40 P.M. Birmingham, 10.15 and 11.25 A.M.; 1.15 and 7.40 P.M.;

general, 7.40 P.M. Telephone—49 Bridge Street.

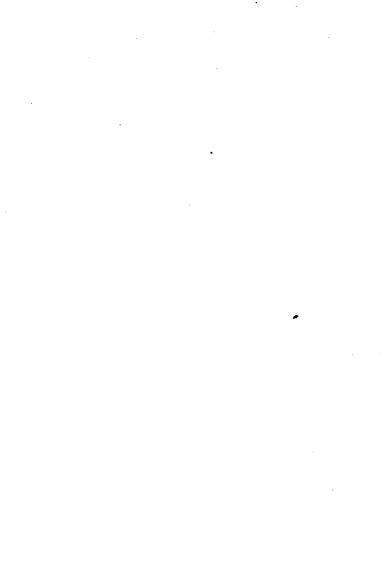
LEAMINGTON.—Head office: Parade. Hours, 7 A.M. to 10 P.M. Sub-offices: Brunswick Street, Clarendon Avenue, Clarendon Street, High Street, Milverton, Regent Street, W., Parade, Willes Road. Hours, 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. Deliveries: 6.30, 9.20, and 11.30 A.M.; 3.40 (except Saturday), and 6.30 P.M. Despatches: London, 7 daily; first, 9.15 A.M.; last, 10 P.M. Birmingham, 8 daily; first, 2.45 A.M.; last, 10 P.M.; general, 9.15 A.M., 10 P.M. Telephone—65 Regent Street.

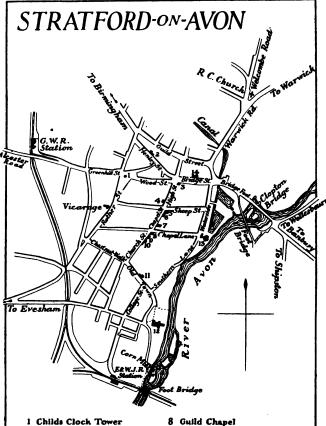
Rughy.—Head office: Albert Street. Hours 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sub-offices: Oxford Street, New Bilton, High Street, Bridget Street, Grosvenor Road. Hours, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Deliveries: 7 and 10.30 a.m.; 3 and 6.30 p.m. Despatches: London, 6 daily; first, 12.30 a.m.; last, 7.15 p.m. Birmingham, 6 daily; first, 8.25 a.m.; last, 9.35 p.m. General,

9.35 P.M. Telephone-30 Little Church Street.

STRATFORD.—Office: Sheep Street. Hours, 6.30 A.M. to 8.30 P.M. Deliveries: 6.30 and 11.20 A.M.; 3.45 and 7.15 P.M. Despatches: London, 6.45, 9.25 and 11.15 A.M.; 8.5 P.M. Birmingham, 6.45, 9.25 and 11.15 A.M.; 1.45, 3.50 and 8.5 P.M. General, 8.5 P.M. Telephone—34a Guild Street.

WARWICK.—Head office: Old Square. Hours, 6.30 A.M. to 8 P.M. Sub-offices: Crompton Street, Emscote; Emscote Road, Smith Street. Hours, 8 A.M. to 8 P.M. Deliveries: 7 and II.40 A.M.; 3.30 and 7.30 P.M. Despatches: London, 6 daily; first, 5.30 A.M.; last, 9.20 P.M. Birmingham, 5 daily; first, 5.30 A.M.; last, 9.20 P.M. General, 9.20 P.M. Telephone—60 Market Place.





- 2 Birth-place
- 3 Quiney's House
- 4 Harvard House
- 5 Town Hall
- 6 Shakespeare Hotel

- 9 Guild Hall & Grammar School
- 10 Almshouses
- Il Halls Croft
- 12 Holy Trinity Church
- 13 Shakespeare Memorial
- 7 New Place & Nash's House 14 Red Horse & White Lion Hotels

I

STRATFORD-ON-AVON (i.e. the ford on the street or great high road to the N.) is a thriving country town, clean and well lit. A big brewery and an iron foundry employ many hands, and the wharves on the canal are busy; but the chief industry is the entertainment of tourists. From the opening of the season with the Birthday Celebrations in April to its close with the approach of winter, thirty or forty thousand people come annually to tax the resources of the town; and the proprietors of the many and comfortable hotels take as a matter of course a telegram from Cook or Gaze ordering food and beds for a party of two or three hundred at a day's notice.

The visitor who sets out with a pocketful of sixpences and refuses to be hurried, will find Stratford a pleasant place; and when exhausted with sight-seeing may rest in a boat on the river, or in the meadows beyond the foot-bridge below the church, from which both river

and town look their best.

Boats may be had of Mr Davis, 59 Waterside, at the Swan's Nest Inn or at the Unicorn Hotel, near the Clopton Bridge. The charge is usually 2/ the 1st hour; 1/6 every hour after, or 5/6 the half day. A steamboat runs short trips from just below the Clopton Bridge.

Carriages can be hired at any of the hotels; the charges being much as follows: by the hour, 3/6; the town and Shottery, 7/6; Shottery only, 4/; Warwick, from 12/6; Charlecote and Warwick, 15/; Kenilworth, £1, 5s.; the Warwick and

Kenilworth round, 11 gs.

Bathing.—The public bathing place in the river is reached from the Alveston Road. Admission free: hours for men; weekdays till 10 A.M., and after 12 noon; Sunday till 10 A.M.; for women, 10.15 to 11.45 A.M. on week days only.

From the G.W.R. Station a short walk down the Alcester Road and Greenhill Street leads to Rother Market ("rother" = A.-S. hrbder, an ox, v. Timon of

Athens, iv. 3, l. 12, "It is the pasture lards the rother's sides") where stands the Memorial Clock-Tower and Fountain, "the gift of an American citizen, George W. Childs of Philadelphia, to the town of Shakespeare in the Jubilee year of Queen Victoria." The lower stage has inscriptions, mainly taken from Shakespeare, in recessed arches: the second is arcaded. the third, which contains the clock, has small figures of Puck, Peas-blossom, Cobweb and Mustard-seed at the corners, and above it come the tower and spire. The foundation-stone was laid on June 20, 1897, and Sir Henry (then Mr) Irving dedicated the Memorial on its completion.

Either of the two streets on the L., Windsor Street or Mere Street, runs into Henley Street, on the N. side of which stands the early sixteenth century halftimbered building known as Shakespeare's Birth-place.

Admission: week-days only, 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. in summer and dusk in winter. 6d. for the Birth-place and 6d. for the Museum.

Its History.—In 1552 John Shakespeare, William Shakespeare's father, with his neighbours Quiney and Reynolds, was fined twelve pence for having a muckheap in front of the house he occupied in Henley Street. There is no evidence that this house was, or was not, that now known as the Birth-place. In October 1556 he bought two free-hold estates, one in Greenhill Street, the other the eastern (i.e. the one nearer the town) of the two houses now shown. William Shakespeare was born in 1564, and it was not till 1575 that his father paid Edmund Hall £40 for the western house, which is now called the Birth-place. It is on record that he was actually living in it in 1596. The evidence, therefore, that William Shaketspeare was born in the house pointed out by tradition rests only on a probability, which is strengthened however, by the fact that his father used the eastern house as a shop for the sale of wool, skins, etc., and that the two houses were at that time connected by interior doorways. The presumption is that John Shakespeare bought the eastern house in 1556 in order to have his shop next door to his dwelling.

In his time, a walnut tree stood in front of the door of the Birth-place, and on the other side of the road was a pool of water. Behind the house lay a garden and yard with two barns, pig-styes, and other insanitary things, the boundaries of the property being almost exactly those of the present garden: behind these again came the great London Highway, now Guild Street, and beyond the road the Corporation gravel pits. In 1596 John Shakespeare sold two strips of land, one on the W. of the Birth-place, the other behind the wool-shop.

In 1601 he died, and the Henley Street house and shop, the only property then remaining to him, descended to his heir-at-law, his son William. He appears to have let the shop, for by 1603 it had become an inn, at that time "The Swan," and later known as "The Swan and Maydenhead," or "The Maydenhead." The house he lent to his mother till her death in 1608, and then to his sister, Joan Hart, to whom, by his will, he left it for life, with remainder to his daughter, Susannah Hall, the immediate legatee of the inn. Mrs Hall's only child, Elizabeth Nash, afterwards Barnard, dying without issue in 1669, left both houses to Joan Hart's descendants, who continued to let out the eastern half as an inn, and towards the close of the eighteenth century opened a butcher's shop in the Birth-place. In 1771 they sold the western half of the Birth-place, and finally disposed of the inn and the remainder of the Birth-place in 1806.

In 1846, when the buildings, except the part sold in 1771, came again into the market, a committee of

trustees for the Nation was formed, who during the following year bought all that was for sale for £3000. 1848 saw the purchase of the part sold in 1771, and of three cottages which had been built about 1675 in the garden west of the Birth-place. The cottages were pulled down; and in subsequent years the dormer windows, which had been taken out towards the close of the eighteenth century (possibly owing to the increase of the window-tax in 1784) and the wooden porch which had been removed about the same time, were put back: the early nineteenth-century brick front of the inn was replaced by a careful imitation of the original half-timbered building; and the interior of both houses was restored as nearly as possible to its Elizabethan arrangement.

The Interior.—The bell outside the door of the Birth-place summons the custodian. The door opens immediately into the Living-Room, often erroneously called the kitchen, which has a paved floor and an open fire-place. This, in the Harts' time the butcher's shop, was the room where the Shakespeares took their meals and received company. The Furniture in it, as in the rest of the house, was not Shakespeare property. Some belonged to the Harts, some is sanctified by the name of Garrick, some was brought here as an example of what the Shakespeare furniture very pro-

bably was.

Behind the Living-room is the Kitchen. Over the recessed fire-place is a mantel of solid oak: within the recess, on the L., the bacon cupboard, on the R. an ingle seat. Behind the kitchen are two small rooms, the Wash-house on the L., the Pantry on the R.; and underneath it lies the Cellar, the only part of the building which certainly remains in its original state. In the floor near the foot of the stairs may be seen the small aperture through which the newly brewed sale was poured into the casks below.

The narrow stairs lead up to the Best Bed-room,

where, if anywhere in this building, William Shakespeare was born, and where probably his father and mother died. In those days the walls, now bare and gloomy, would be covered with "painted cloths," a cheaper substitute for arras. Among the innumerable autographs that now cover walls and window-panes the custodian is able to point out those of Walter Scott, Carlyle, Browning, Byron, and other famous men. The bureau came from the College (p. 20).

Behind the best bed-room were two Back Bed-rooms, now knocked into one without displacement of the massive oak beams. In the further of the two rooms, protected by a stout iron safe, is a picture of very small value (almost certainly an eighteenth century copy of the Monumental Bust in Holy Trinity Church), which perhaps belonged in former days to the Clopton family. It goes by the name of the Stratford portrait.

The Attic above is not shown to visitors, who from this floor will return to the living-room, out of which opens The Museum which occupies what was once John Shakespeare's shop and in later days the inn. Among the many interesting things to be seen on the two floors of this house the following may be singled out:

Downstairs.—1. In the open fire-place, a desk, traditionally William Shakespeare's, from the Grammar School (p. 19).

2. The sign-board of the old Falcon Inn at Bidford, for which see p. 39. This sign-board, however, is not nearly as old as Shakespeare's time.

3. Part of a first edition of the "Gesta Romanorum," probably the only fragment extant. From some copy or other of this, which is a popular mediæval storybook, Shakespeare drew part of the plot of *The Merchant of Venice*.

4. Several deeds relating to the sales or purchases of John or William Shakespeare, of which the most interesting are: (a) a deed of 1596, which proves

John Shakespeare to have been then living in the Birth-place. (δ) William Shakespeare's purchase of a moiety of the tithes of Stratford from Ralph Huband, 1605.

Upstairs.—1. A photograph of the death-mask, by some supposed to be Shakespeare's, discovered during the last century at Mainz. For further comment on

this mask, see p. 31.

2. A facsimile of the only known autograph letter to Shakespeare: a request from Richard "Quyney" for a loan of ± 30 . The original, formerly exhibited, was found to be fading from exposure to the sun, and is now put away.

3. The "Ély House" portrait, formerly the property of Thomas Turton, Bishop of Ely: an excellent early seventeenth century work of art, on panel, bearing the inscription Æ 39 X 1603, but not certainly a portrait

of Shakespeare.

4. A painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds of Garrick as Kiteley in his version of Ben Jonson's "Every Man in his Humour."

5. A cabinet containing the vast collection of notes illustrating Shakespeare's plays made by the great

Shakespearean scholar, J. O. Halliwell-Phillipps.

The western rooms on the ground and upper floors of the Birth-place, making up the part sold by the Harts in 1771, are not shown. The Corporation have chosen them as the safest place in which to keep their records. There is no artificial light in the building, and the fire which heats the hot-water pipes is some yards away in the garden.

The Garden behind the houses contains flowers and fruit-trees mentioned in Shakespeare's works. The stone in the central path is in the base of the old

Market Cross.

Note.—Mr Richard Savage, Secretary and Librar and to the Trustees and an authority on Shakespearle's life and times, is generally to be found in the

Museum, and is always ready to give valuable help to students.

From the eastern end of Henley Street, High Street runs down to the R. At the head of it there stood in Shakespeare's time the Old Market Cross, a stone monument covered with a low wooden shed and surrounded by forms on which sat the listeners to the sermons occasionally preached there. The stocks. pillory and whipping-post stood close by. Opposite, at the corner of Bridge Street and High Street, stands "Quiney's House," now a photographer's and fancy shop and completely modernised outside. Here lived Thomas Quiney, son of Richard Quiney, and his wife Judith, William Shakespeare's younger daughter. The house owed its name of "The Cage" to the fact that it was built on the site of an old lock-up.

The old house further down High Street on the R., with carved barge-boards and framework and elaborate corbels to support the upper windows, is known as Harvard House. Thomas Rogers, Alderman of Stratford, built it, as the date on the front indicates, towards the end of the sixteenth century. His daughter Katherine married Robert Harvard, a butcher of Southwark. Their son John (b. 1607) after taking his degree at Cambridge, went to America. inherited his mother's fortune, and founded Harvard

College.

Chapel Street is a continuation of High Street. On the L., at the corner of Sheep Street stands the Town Hall, a semi-classic building erected in 1768 on the site of an earlier one of 1633. During the "Jubilee" festival of 1769 it was dedicated to Shakespeare by Garrick, who also presented to the Corporation the statue of Shakespeare which he had had made for the amphitheatre where the plays were performed on that occasion, and which now stands in the niche looking up the High Street. Among other portraits to be seen in the handsome banqueting hall upstairs are those of Shakespeare by Wilson and of Garrick by Gainsborough, both presented by Garrick in 1769, and the

Duke of Dorset by Romney.

Next to the Town Hall in Chapel Street stands the old **Shakespeare Hotel**, a fine fifteenth century house. The windows of its Five Gables contain many of the original horn panes, and the house is full of old oak and furniture. Each of the rooms is named after one of Shakespeare's plays.

At the far end of Chapel Street, where Chapel Lane branches off to the L., stands Nash's House and New

Place.

(Admission: week-days only; 9 A.M. to 6 P.M. in summer, to dusk in winter, 6d., including Nash's House and the foundations. The garden is open without charge: from March 1st to October 31st, on week-days, 9 A.M. to 1 hour after sunset, Sunday, 2 P.M. to 6 P.M. or sunset: the rest of the year, Saturday only, 9 A.M. to 1 hour after sunset.)

Admission to the plot of garden which contains all that is left of the country residence of the then popular and respected "Mr William Shakespeare, of Stratfordupon-Avon, Gentleman," is gained by ringing the bell of the house adjoining, known as Nash's House. was Shakespeare's neighbour here is not known; but later the owner and occupier was Thomas Nash, the first husband of Shakespeare's grand-daughter, Elizabeth The entrance-hall and some of the lower rooms are now converted into a museum of relics, of which the most interesting are those dug up in the excavations at New Place, e.g. an Elizabethan knife, a stone mullion from one of the windows, tobacco pipes, etc. There are also chairs from New Place, an Elizabethan joint-stool, an old shovel-board from the Falcon Tayern, which stood on the other side of the street on the site of the present Falcon Inn, and a table made from the wood of Shakespeare's mulberry tree. The house, which has been almost entirely rebuilt since Nash's days, was purchased by subscription in 1861.

On the south side of it lies the lawn in which excavation has revealed the foundations of the house in which Shakespeare lived. It appears to have occupied three sides of a square, with the front and south side on the road, and the well now shown as Shakespeare's well in the courtyard behind. Another well has recently been discovered further from the house. A bay-window overlooking the garden is pointed out as that of Shakespeare's study: whether it was so or not, it must have been one of the best rooms in the house, with a pleasant outlook.

History.—A gabled brick and timber house was built on this site by the great Sir Hugh Clopton (p. 21), in the time of Henry VII., and named in his will the Great House, being the largest in Stratford. After passing through various hands it was bought, with two barns and gardens, by Shakespeare in 1597 for the small sum of £60. The house, still the largest in Stratford, was probably in bad repair: Shakespeare altered and restored it, christened it the New Place, and planted a fresh orchard; but for fourteen years he only paid the place an occasional visit, leaving as his tenant at Stratford one Thomas Greene, Town Clerk, who claimed to be his cousin. It was not till after his retirement from the stage in 1610 that he settled there permanently.

Having finally taken up his abode here he lived the life of a country gentleman; entertained his friends from London and went there frequently himself; went to law a good deal, laid out a "knotted," i.e. a formal, garden and planted the famous mulberry tree. It is noteworthy that about this time one Veron, a Frenchman, was distributing mulberry slips in this part of England at the command of James I., who wished to encourage the keeping of silk-worms. There is another mulberry tree of the same age in the garden of Loxley

Vicarage.

The household at New Place consisted of Shakespeare, his wife and his two daughters: Susannah, with her husband, John Hall, and Judith, still unmarried. Hamnet Shakespeare, Judith's twin and the only son, had died the year before his father bought the property.

It was probably to oblige John Hall, a strong Puritan, that Shakespeare, himself no lover of such folk, entertained in 1614 "a preacher" in his house. The Chamberlain's accounts show that the divine's allowance included "one quart of sack and one quart of claret wine."

After settling at New Place in 1611 Shakespeare seems to have written no more. Here he lived, it is said, at the rate of £1000 a year; and here on April 3rd, 1616, he died at the age of fifty-two. According to the diary of John Ward, Vicar of Stratford, 1662-68, the immediate cause of death was a drinking-bout with Ben Jonson and Michael Drayton. The story is not supported by any other evidence. New Place descended to Susannah Hall, who continued to live in it. Her mother died here in 1623, and her husband in 1635. In July 1643, Queen Henrietta Maria arrived in Stratford with a large body of troops for King Charles I., and was entertained by Mrs Hall at New Place for two nights, until the arrival of Prince Rupert with more troops, who escorted her to meet the king at Tysoe near Kineton (p. 64).

On the death of Mrs Hall in 1649, New Place descended to her daughter Elizabeth, then the wife of Mr (afterwards Sir) John Barnard, of Abington, Northants. When Lady Barnard died childless in £669, the property was sold by her trustees to Sir Edward Walker; and, descending to his daughter, Barnara, Lady Clopton, came back into the possession of the family which had originally owned it. In the first shalf of the eighteenth century, Sir Hugh Clopton almost entirely rebuilt the house, constructing, as the hold prints show, a completely new front. In 1742 he

entertained Garrick, Macklin and Dr Delaney under the mulberry tree. The Cloptons remained in possession till 1753, when the property was purchased by a choleric clergyman, Francis Gastrell; who, bothered by the tourist and the rate-collector, cut down the tree to spite the one and pulled down the house to evade the other. The tree was made into furniture and knickknacks, many of which are to be seen in Stratford; and two of its descendants still flourish in the New Place gardens: the site of the house was ultimately bought in 1861 by Mr Halliwell-Phillipps and a body of subscribers and vested in trustees.

At the further end of the garden behind stood the Old Theatre, built in 1830 and demolished in 1871. Opposite New Place, at the corner of Chapel Lane and Church Street is **The Guild Chapel of the Holy Cross**.

(Admission free; keys at 3 Garden Row, Scholars' Lane.)

For the Guild, v. p. 18. Of the original chapel built in 1296 by the Guild's first master, Robert de Stratforde (father of John, p. 20), nothing now remains. The chancel was rebuilt in the first half of the fifteenth century, and the nave and tower in late Perp. by the great Sir Hugh Clopton, who also gave the single bell in the tower which still rings the curfew at 6 A.M. and 8 P.M. during the winter months.

In 1804 the walls were found to be covered with frescoes, representing the history of the True Cross and other subjects. Most of them were beyond preservation, but the remnants may still be seen on the walls of the nave. A card bearing an account of them and a few reproductions is shown in the chapel, and coloured copies of the whole series, by T. Fisher, F.S.A., with descriptions by J. G. Nichols, were published in 1808. In this chapel Shakespeare, as a boy, not only attended service, but was occasionally taught; for at that time the place was sometimes used as a school-room by the Grammar School. (Cf. Twelfth Night, iii. 2: "Cross-

gartered? Most villainously; like a pedant that keeps a school i' the church.") As a man he probably worshipped here rather than at the church, and as owner of New Place was entitled to a special pew.

On the L. of Church Street, adjoining the chapel,

stand the Guild Hall and Grammar School.

(Admission: Week-days only, in term time, 12.30 to 2.30 and 4.30 to 6 in summer; dusk in winter. Wednesday and Saturday, 2 to 6 only; holidays, 9 to 7 in summer, dusk in winter. 6d.)

The Guild might be described as a benefit society for body and soul alike. Possibly a survival from Saxon times, it was one of the wealthiest and most famous in England. The Guild Hall and the Grammar School above it were erected at the same time as the original chapel of Robert de Stratforde, but much altered in the early fifteenth century. At the dissolution of the monasteries (Henry VIII.) the Guild was disbanded, but after six years of anarchy the buildings were made over by a charter of Edward VI. to the newly incorporated borough, to which they still belong.

On the R. of the entrance is the lodge occupied by the custodian. The Guild Hall proper lies on the ground floor. In Shakespeare's time it was used for the meetings of the Town Council, but a more interesting fact is that here, no doubt, in his boyhood he saw plays performed by travelling companies. The earliest recorded instance is in 1559, when his own father, as Bailiff, gave licences to the Players of the Queen and the Earl of Worcester's Men. In 1537 the Earl of Leicester's Servants gave a performance in this room, being compelled to leave London on account of the plague; and one widely-accepted theory is that Shakespeare, then in trouble at home (pp. 45, 143) either left the town with them or ran away after them. At one time this hall was divided into three, and at its restoration some few years ago to its original state, the

removal of the modern wainscoting brought to light the faint mural painting of the Crucifixion, with Our Lady and St John on either side, and coats of arms in the outer panels. There was also discovered, scratched on the wall a little below the line, a rough memorandum of words and figures, which has been deciphered as relating to the food at a meeting of the Guild in the

reign of Henry VII.

At right angles to the Hall is a room known as The Armoury, containing some good Jacobean panelling and a painting of the Royal Arms, dated 1660. Halfway up the stairs comes The Muniment Room (not shown), and at the top the rooms used by the Grammar School, which, like the Guild, may have survived from Saxon times and is certainly older than 1482, when it was endowed by Thomas Jollysse, or Jolepe, a priest of the Guild. The endowment was confiscated at the Dissolution, but restored by Edward VI., the sounder and benefactor of many schools, and since that date the institution has gone by the name of King Edward VI.'s School. Here Shakespeare was taught from 1571 to 1577. The only qualifications for admission were that a boy must be seven years old, a native of Stratford, and able to read.

The rooms, at one time much cut about, were restored by the late Mr C. E. Flower as nearly as possible to their original state. In the Headmaster's Room, once known as the Council Chamber, are two frescoed red and white roses, painted in honour of the marriage of Henry VII. of Lancaster with Elizabeth of York in 1486. The Jacobean table is worth noticing, and the roof, said to be fifteenth century work, contains some enormous oak beams, roughly trimmed with the adze. Out of the Headmaster's Room open the Mathematical Room and the Old Latin Room, at one time divided into two, but now restored to their Elizabethan state. A brass plate at the far end records the traditional position of Shakespeare's seat.

Behind the school stands the old Pedagogue's house, restored and used as class-rooms.

Next to the Guild Hall and Grammar School in Church Street stand the Almshouses, originally founded by the Guild, and supported by the Corporation since Edward VI.

At the lower end of Church Street Old Town branches off to the L. In this street, inhabited in the Middle Ages by the dependents of the great Saxon monastery, stands the gabled house, half-way down on the L., where Dr John Hall lived when first he came to practise medicine in Stratford. The street leads directly to The Church of the Holy Trinity which is approached by an avenue of lime trees through a churchyard containing some fine yews.

(Admission: summer, 8 to 7; winter, 9 to 5.30, 6d.)

Its History.—From the seventh to the ninth centuries there stood on this site a great monastery, the last visible trace of which disappeared in 1800, when the Saxon vault adjoining the N. side of the present chancel (p. 25) was removed. A church, of which some fragments remain, was built here about the time of the Conquest, probably by one of the bishops of Worcester, who had owned the manor of Stratford from the earliest times. The history of the fabric since that time is detailed below. In 1331 John de Stratforde (p. 28) founded a College of priests to serve his new chantry of St Thomas (à Beckett) the Martyr (see below, S. aisle). From that date till the Dissolution the church was collegiate, with its own Dean and Chapter. In 1352 Ralph de Stratforde, cousin or perhaps uncle of John, built a mansion-house for the priests' residence on the W. side of the churchyard. The College was disbanded at the Dissolution, and the mansion-house granted to John Dudley, Earl of Warwick. Several families of note, including the Combes (see below, chancel), lived there, until, in 1799, though still in good repair, it was pulled down. The Fabric is cruciform with two aisles and a central tower.

Outside.—The tower, rebuilt of the old material in 1867, contains round-headed arches and recesses, the only remaining fragments of the Norman church, enclosing E.E. lights, and is surmounted by an octagonal spire erected in 1764 in place of a lower wooden steeple. Peal of eight bells. Height of tower and spire 163 ft. Over the W. door are three empty niches, the crocketed canopies of which shoot upward into the W. window. The canopies are continuous, symbolizing the Holy Trinity. The N. Porch is Perp. in style, and has above it a room, with a niche on either side of the window. On the W. side of the exterior of the porch are the marks of bullets, traces, perhaps, of some execution in the Civil Wars, when churchyards were often chosen for such scenes. The roof is groined, with the remains of a carefully effaced "Majesty" on the central boss. On the door is an old Sanctuary ring, on touching which the fugitive became safe from the civil or criminal arm.

Inside.—The temptation is to hurry at once to the chancel, but the church is well worth studying in detail. The N. Aisle, like the S., is divided from the nave by six Dec. arches, and is itself Dec. Of the five windows, the two nearest to the transept are alike; the third has the same tracery but is not so high; the fourth is smaller and not so pure in style, and the fifth nearly hidden by the porch. The aisle was originally narrower, and was enlarged in 1332. At the E. end what was formerly the Lady Chapel now contains the tombs of the great Stratford family of Clopton, (1) on the S. side an altar-tomb under a recessed arch. The arms on the arch are those of Sir Hugh Clopton, Lord Mayor of London in 1492, builder of the Clopton Bridge and New Place and rebuilder of the Guild Chapel. By his will he directed that if he died in Stratford he was to be buried in this place, and it is possible that this

tomb was intended for his remains. Actually, he died in London and was buried in St Margaret's, Lothbury. (2) Opposite the above, on the N., a tomb bearing recumbent figures of William Clopton, Esq., and his wife: ob. 1592 and 1596. (3) Against the E. wall the great altar-tomb of George Carew, Earl of Totnes, and Joice, his wife, eldest surviving daughter of William

Clopton, above.

The N. Transept, like the S., was probably built at the beginning of the thirteenth century, and restored under the will of Sir Hugh Clopton. Both have two E.E. windows on the E. side and one on the W. Their large windows are Dec. In the E. and W. walls of the N. Transept, close to the chancel arch, are traces of older arches. That on the E. probably led into the charnel-house (see below); that on the W. into the older and narrower N. aisle. The screen in this transept which cuts off the vestry is the remains of the fifteenth century rood-screen, through the door of which the body of Shakespeare was carried to the grave.

On the S. side of the Chancel Arch, close to the rood door, is the remnant of a fresco, said by experts to represent the dedication of a church. The Chancel has a decided "skew" to the N., so much so that a straight line drawn up the nave would barely touch the S. end of the altar. Entirely rebuilt by Thomas Balshall, Dean of the Collegiate Church, 1465-91, it is a good specimen of late Perp. work, with five four-light windows on each side, and an E. window of seven lights. All the glass is modern, the E. window representing the Crucifixion with a number of Saints. mostly British. The third window from the E. on the N. side was put up by American visitors to the shrine of the "Chief of Poets," and unveiled by Mr Howard Potter in 1885. The figures are scriptural illustrations of the "Seven Ages of Man" (As you like it, ii. 7). 1. Moses, the infant; 2. Samuel, the school-boy:

3. Jacob, the lover; 4. Joshua, the soldier; 5. Solomon, the justice; 6. Abraham, the slippered pantaloon; 7. Isaac, the last scene of all. The oak stalls have new backs, but the "miserere" seats are ancient and interesting. The humour of the carvings is of the broadest.

On the N. wall over the altar steps is Shakespeare's Monument.

Note.—The inscriptions on the tombs below were in danger of being obliterated by the hundreds of feet that passed over them, and no one is now allowed to pass the altar rails without special permission. This rule is a wise one, but prohibits a full face view of the monument.

The entablature of the arch, supported by two Corinthian columns of black marble with gilded capitals and bases, bears a shield with Shakespeare's arms: "Gold, on a bend sable, a spear of the first, and for crest or cognizance a falcon, his wings displayed argent, standing on a wreath of his colours, supporting a spear gold steeled as aforesaid," and the motto, "Non sanz droict." Above the shield is a skull, and on either side a cherub, the one on the left holding a spade, the one on the right with closed eyes, one hand holding an inverted torch, the other resting on a skull. Under the arch is the bust of Shakespeare, half length, dressed in a scarlet doublet and black cloak. The eyes are light, the cheeks fresh coloured, and the hair and beard auburn. White cuffs are turned back from the wrists, and a broad white collar turns down from the neck. The right hand holds a quill pen, the left rests on a sheet of paper which lies on a cushion, green above and red below, with gilt tassels. Beneath the bust are the inscriptions in large and small capitals:-

> Ivdicio Pylivm, genio Socratem, arte Maronem, Terra tegit, popvlvs maeret, Olympvs habet.

which may be translated: "In judgment a Pylius

(Nestor), in wit a Socrates, in art a Maro (Vergil)—the earth covers him, a nation mourns him, Heaven hath him," and—

Stay Passenger, why goest thov by so fast?
read if thov canst, whom envious Death hath plast,
within this monument Shakspeare: with whome,
quick nature dide: whose name doth decke ys Tombe,
Far more, then cost: Sith all yt He hath writt,
Leaves living art, but page, to serve his witt.
obiit. ano. doi. 1616.
Aetatis 53 die 23 Ap.

The authorship of the verses is unknown, but has been ascribed to Dr John Hall.

The sculptor of this monument was Gerard Johnson, or Janssen, a Dutch "tombe-maker" living in Southwark; and the mention of the bust in Leonard Digges' verses prefixed to the 1623 folio edition of the plays proves it to have been put up within seven years of Shakespeare's death. About the forehead and ears are marks which led Chantrey and others to believe that it was modelled from a death-mask (see p. 31).

The bust was originally coloured, more or less as it appears now. In 1743, John Ward, Mrs Siddons's grandfather, and his travelling company, gave a performance in Stratford, and devoted the proceeds to the restoration of the monument, which may not have been altogether good for the bust. In 1793, at the instigation of Edmond Malone, the Shakespearean scholar and critic, it was painted white. The change roused a storm of protest, and the following widely quoted but not very apt epigram was written in the visitors' book in the church in 1810:—

Stranger to whom this monument is shewn, Invoke the poet's curse upon Malone, Whose meddling zeal his barbarous taste betrays And daubs his tombstone as he marr'd his plays.

The poet's curse was aimed at the disturbers of his

bones, not the painters of his monument: Malone never touched the tombstone, and did more to preserve the text of the plays than any man of his time. In 1861 the white paint was cleaned off; traces of the original tints (or perhaps those of the 1743 restoration) were discovered underneath, and taken as a guide in the recolouring of the whole.

Some have expressed great admiration for this bust; Dr Ingleby speaks of its "painful stare, with goggle eyes and gaping mouth": Mr Sidney Lee dubs it "a rudely carved specimen of mortuary sculpture—heavy and unintellectual." The visitor must form his own opinion; but attention may be called to the breadth and height of the forehead, and the undeniable humour of the mouth. Below the monument, in the floor within the altar rails, are the graves of the Shakespeare family. Dugdale in 1656 bears witness that William Shakespeare's body actually lay under the stone which is pointed out as covering his grave, and which bears the following inscription in capitals:—

Good frend for Iesvs sake forbeare, to digg the dvst encloased heare: Bleste be ye man yt spares thes stones, and cvrst be he yt moves my bones.

The lines are reputed to be Shakespeare's, writing down to the level of the Stratford sextons of all time, and have a purely practical significance. Close by, in the N. wall, stands a handsome doorway, now blocked, with an ogee hood-moulding and capitals representing, on the W., St Christopher, on the E., the Crucifixion. This door led into the old charnel-house or vault, which ran nearly the whole length of the chancel. Before its destruction in 1800 it was full of bones, disinterred by the sextons to make room for new corpses. So far as is known the curse has been effectual. The grave, which is said to be seventeen feet deep, has never been opened, not even to receive the body of Anne Shakespeare, who wished to be buried with

her husband. An accidental opening of one end in

1706 would hardly count.

Shakespeare is buried in the chancel, not as poet, but as lay-rector by the ownership of a moiety of the Stratford tithes, which he purchased in 1605. His wife lies between him and the N. wall: on the S. come Thomas Nashe, John Hall, Susannah Hall. The inscription on Anne Shakespeare's tombstone is as follows:—

"Heere lyeth interred the body of Anne, wife of William Shakespeare, who depted this life the 6th. day of Augu: 1623: being of the age of 67 yeares.

> Ubera, tu mater, tu lac, vitamq: dedisti. Vae mihi. pro tanto munere saxa dabo. Quam mallem Amoueat lapidem, bonus Angels orè Exeat ut, christi corpus, imago tuA Sed nil votA valent venias cito Christe; resurget Claus A licet tumulo mater et Astr A petet."

Translation: "Mother, thou gavest me the breast, thou gavest me milk and life. Woe's me, for so great a gift my return will be but a tomb. Would that the good Angel would roll away the stone from its mouth, that thy form, like the body of Christ, might come forth! Yet are prayers of no avail: O Christ, come quickly, that my mother, even though shut in the

tomb, may rise again and seek the stars."

The altar-tomb on the N. of the sanctuary is probably that of Dean Balshall (p. 22) who died in 1491. The brass figure is gone from the slab, and the inscription defaced; but scenes in the life of Christ may still be seen in the five panels on the S. side. The white marble busts beyond are those of Richard Combe and his cousin Judith Combe, whom he was to have married, "had not death prevented it by depriving her She died in 1649 "in ye arms of him who most intirely loved and was beloved of her." Under an arch on the N. side of the altar against the E. wall stands the alabaster figure, by Gerard Johnson, of John Combe, Shakespeare's friend, wearing a long gown and holding a book in his hand. The inscription records his charitable bequests; but in life he had the reputation of being an usurer, and Shakespeare, on the very slenderest authority, is credited with the following doggerel gibe at his old friend's expense:—

"Ten-in-the-hundred the Devil allows,
But Combe will have twelve he sweares and he vowes:
If anyone ask, who lies in this tomb?
Oh! ho! quoth the Devil, 'tis my John-a-Combe."

Another version of the first two lines is-

"Ten-in-the-hundred lies here ingrav'd 'Tis a hundred to ten, his soul is not saved."

John Combe died in 1614, and these two lines were first printed in 1608. It was not till 1618 that they

were said to apply to John Combe.

The altar is of stone, and the "mensa" or slab on the top is probably that of the old altar of St Thomas the Martyr in the S. aisle, where it was discovered a few years ago. It retains three of its five Consecration Crosses, and is so long as to necessitate the marble pillars on either side of the altar. In the S. wall is a quadruple sedilia with piscina. The pulpit was given in 1900 by Sir Theodore Martin in memory of his wife, the famous Shakespearean actress, Helen Faucit. The body is of Verdi di Prato, and the five small alabaster figures in the panels represent the four Latin Doctors, SS. Jerome, Ambrose, Augustine, and Gregory, and St Helena, the mother of Constantine, who discovered the true Cross and therefore holds a Cross and nails.

The S. Transept.—For architectural detail see N. transept. This transept is often called the American transept from the great S. window, "the gift of America to Shakespeare's Church," unveiled by the Hon. Thomas Bayard in 1896. The subject is the worship of the incarnate God. In the centre are the Virgin and Child, below them the Magi; on the E.

side King Charles I., Archbishop Laud, Ecgwin, Bishop of Worcester (p. 123), St Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester (p. 103); John de Stratforde, Archbishop of Canterbury (p. 20); on the W., Amerigo Vespucci, Christopher Columbus, William Penn, St Eric, Bishop of Greenland, and Dr Seabury, first Bishop of Connecticut, whose consecration at Aberdeen in 1787 is shown A copy of his agreement with his consecrators is to be seen at the W. end of the church, and may be had for 2d., the proceeds being spent on this transept. The S. Aisle was rebuilt in 1332 by John de Stratforde, then Bishop of Winchester, who devoted the E. end of it, now mainly filled up with the organ, to his chantry of St Thomas the Martyr. It is Dec. in style, with five windows. The first and third from the W. are alike. the second has different tracery, the fourth is nearly round-headed, and the fifth much smaller and nearly hidden by the organ. The sedilia were restored and the canopies added during the last century. Here stands on a new shaft the bowl of the old font, in which in all probability William Shakespeare was baptized; and near it a stone marked with a cross, probably a foundation stone of the old Norman church. The Clerestory is a good specimen of the late Perp. which turned nearly the whole wall into windows. The glass in the W. window is best not looked at. On the N. side of the W. door is a glass case containing the old Parish Register, held open at the pages which show the baptism and burial of William Shakespeare:

(1564) Aprill 26 Gulielmus, filius Johannes Shakspear (1616) April 25 Will Shakspear gent

Photographs of these pages can be purchased of the custodian. Close by stands the old Chain Bible. published in 1611.

A walk round the churchyard will reveal charming views of the river, and a field-path runs from here past

the Corn Mill to the foot-bridge.

Southern (anciently Southam's) Lane, a turning R. just beyond the end of the lime walk, leads to **The Shakespeare Memorial**.

(Admission, 10 to 6 in summer, dusk in winter, 6d.; parties of 20 and more by arrangement; season tickets 1/. The reading room is open to the public, and the Librarian, Mr W. S. Brassington, F.S.A., can be counted on for valuable advice.)

The buildings, which are of red brick, with a tower 120 feet high, comprise a Library and Reading-Room, a Picture Gallery and a Theatre.

History.—The original idea of a Memorial Theatre occurred as long ago as 1820 to the famous comedian, Charles Mathews, but met with nothing more than general approval. In 1864, at the Tercentenary Festival, it was mooted again; but no practical step was taken till 1875, when Mr C. E. Flower, of Stratford, started a fund and gave a site; an unpromising piece of waste land on the river bank, once used for docks and wharves, but since turned to the best advantage. Mr Flower worked hard for the scheme; and the theatre was opened on 23rd April 1879, with a performance of Much Ado about Nothing, in which Helen Faucit and Barry Sullivan played Beatrice and Benedick. The architect of the whole was Mr W. F. Unsworth.

Of the three terra-cotta panels on the outside of the library, representing scenes from As you like it, King John, and Hamlet, the centre one was the gift of the

architect, the others of Miss Mary Anderson.

The Library of Shakespearean and dramatic literature on the ground floor contains copies of the first four folio editions of the plays, some rare quarto editions and early books, a copy of nearly every edition that has been published in Great Britain and America, and translations into more than thirty languages. The aim of the governors is to acquire a copy of every edition ever published. Here also is an interesting

collection of relics and letters of Garrick and other famous actors and actresses. A Caen stone and Purbeck marble staircase, lighted by seven windows representing (of course) the Seven Ages of Man, leads to

The Picture Gallery (Illustrated Catalogue, 2d.), among the contents of which are many original pictures from the Shakespeare Gallery, opened by Boydell in London in 1787. Unquestionably the most interesting picture here is the "Droeshout Original Portrait" (No. 28), 1 foot, 10½ inches by 1 foot, 5½ inches, painted on two planks of old English elm, prepared with white plaster, primed red, and bearing on the top left hand corner "Willm. Shakespeare 1600." This picture was discovered in 1892 by Mr Edgar Flower in the possession of Mr H. C. Clements of Peckham Rye, who had bought it of a dealer many years before. At his death in 1895 it was purchased by Mrs Flower and presented to the Gallery, where it had already been hanging on loan. There is little doubt that this is a genuine portrait of Shakespeare. After the most searching examination, the weight of expert opinion is in favour of its being an original painting from the life; and there is high authority also for holding that, while the picture could not have been paided from the Martin Droeshout engraving in the 16 folio which it closely resembles, the engraving might well have been taken from the picture. The engraving, which may be seen in the library, is certified by contemporary evidence to be a likeness of the poet; the "Address to the Reader" on the opposite page beginning:-

> "This figure, that thou here seeth put It was for gentle Shakespeare cut:"

but as a work of art it is far inferior to the picture. The engraver was only fourteen years old at Shakespeare's death, and it has been suggested that the painter of the picture was another Martin Droeshout, uncle of the engraver, and an artist of greater ability.

In the window are three casts of the "Darmstadt Death-mask," discovered in 1849 in a rag-shop at Mainz by Dr Ludwig Becker, librarian to the Duke of Hesse. The mask, which bears the date 1616, was brought to England and compared with the monumental bust in Holy Trinity Church. The measurements were said to agree: the bust bears marks (p. 24) which suggest that it was made from a mask; and Dr Becker declared that this was the mask from which it had been made. The face is an exceptionally fine one; but to the unprejudiced observer the difference in the shape of the forehead will appear so striking as to throw doubt on the truth of Dr Becker's conas to throw doubt on the truth of Dr Becker's conclusion. The original mask is now in a private house at Darmstadt. The other portraits of Shakespeare here are Nos. 29, by Angelica Kaufmann: 30, the "Venice": 31, the "Jacob Tonson": 32, the "Willett": 34, the "D'Avenant" bust, a copy of the original (now in the Garrick Club, London), which is an Italian seventeenth century work in black terra-cotta, discovered in 1845 bricked up in the wall of the old "Duke's Theatre," built by Sir William D'Avenant in Lincoln's Inn Fields in 1660: 35, the "Napier."

On the landing outside the Gallery is a white marble alto-relievo of Helen Faucit, Lady Martin. This monument was first offered to the church to be placed in the chancel, but declined as likely to create a dangerous precedent. In the Hall is a copy of the Westminster Abbey statue of Shakespeare by Kent

and Scheemakers, 1740.

The Theatre is a well-designed little place, with a stage of very fair size. Once a year, in April, it is open for a fortnight at and after the celebration of Shakespeare's birthday, when some of the plays are performed, generally by Mr F. R. Benson's Company. During the rest of the year it is but little used.

The Tower may be climbed by a long staircase and

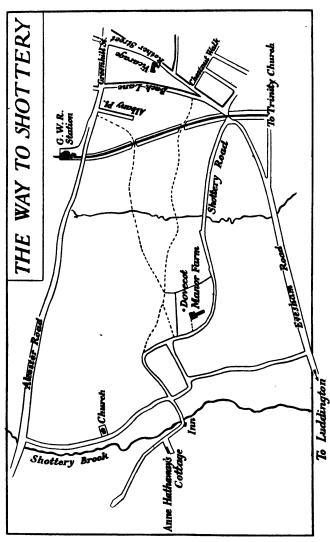
several ladders; but the active will be repaid for their exertion by a wide view from the top, including the Cotswold Hills on the S. and S.-W. In the garden to the S. of the Memorial stands the great group of bronze statuary designed and presented by Lord Ronald Gower. On a circular column Shakespeare, in a dress modelled on that of the mortuary bust, sits in a chair: his right hand, holding a pen, rests on his knee; his left, holding a tablet, hangs over the back of the chair. On pedestals opposite each side of the square base on which the column stands are statues of Lady Macbeth, Falstaff, Prince Hal and Hamlet, symbolizing tragedy, comedy, history and philosophy. The bronzes were cast in Paris, and the sculptor spent twelve years over the work, which was unveiled in 1888. On the N. side of the Memorial lie the Bancroft (Bank croft) Public Gardens, a favourite place for a Sunday stroll, laid out at the cost of Mr C. E. Flower. Here stood the wooden amphitheatre in which the plays were performed during "Garrick's" Shakespeare Jubilee in 1769.

The continuation northward of Southern Lane is called Waterside and runs up to Bridge Foot, at the E. end of which the river is spanned by the Clopton Bridge built by the great Sir Hugh Cloptor in the reign of Henry VII. It has fourteen stone arches and five smaller ones under the road at the town end. The second main arch from the E. was broken by the Parliamentary forces in December 1645, to prevent

the Royalists from crossing.

In 1814 the bridge was widened, and the ugly iron footway on the N. side has been added since. At the W. end of the Bridge foot lies Bridge Street, which until the eighteenth century had a row of shops, known as Middle Row, running down what is now a fine open space. On the right hand side of this street are two interesting houses. The White Lion Hotel was known in Shakespeare's day as "The Peacock"; and though





the brick and timber front has long disappeared, the cellars are of great age. At the "Red Horse Hotel," next door, Washington Irving wrote the "Sketch Book" (p. 144). The room he used, next to the entrance on the left side of the archway, is shown to visitors, and still contains his "throne" and clock. His "sceptre," the poker, is now kept in the office, and can be seen on application.

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WALKS NEAR STRATFORD

SHOTTERY, LUDDINGTON, BINTON

Two footpaths lead from Stratford to Shottery; one turning out of the Alcester Road opposite the G.W.R. Station, the other leaving Rother Street opposite the end of Chestnut Walk. Near Shottery they meet, to diverge again. That to the right is the more direct way to Anne Hathaway's cottage; but it is worth while turning to the left for a sight of the Manor House Farm. Behind the farm and visible on the left from the path is an old dovecot, a relic of the times when the keeping of pigeons was the prerogative of the lord of the Manor. These brick and stone dovecots are a feature of this part of England.

Where the path meets the road, the turning L. leads to the front of the Farm (not shown to visitors as a rule). In this handsome gabled and timbered house lived the great family of Harewell, and in 1402 "John Harewell been said to have an Oratory in his Manor House of Shotrech." 180 years later, Catholics still worshipped under the same roof. At the back, over apple rooms and onion rooms, is a wide, dark attic, paved with cement and crossed by huge oak beams. At the far end in the sixteenth century stood an altar; to which, according to one opinion, William Shakespeare

led Anne Hathaway in 1582. There are three other claimants for the honour; Billesley, Luddington and Temple Grafton; and the claim of each is as weak as the rest.

Opposite the end of the footpath from Stratford the road runs on into Shottery village and curves R. The first turning L. after the curve and then the first R. lead to Anne Hathaway's Cottage.

(Admission: 9 to 6, or dusk. 6d.)

When John Hathaway, husbandman, lived here in 1546 and after, the thatched and timbered row, of which this cottage now forms part, was all one house. The entrance was at the back, and the chimney (1697) did not exist; but the part now shown comprises the two most important rooms, the living-room on the L., and the kitchen on the R., of the present entrance. The open fireplace in the living-room, with the baconcupboard (which has a later door) on the L.; the dresser, the pewter plates and the table, all belonged to the Hathaways; and let into a settle of later date is the seat of one contemporary with Shakespeare's courtship. The kitchen still preserves its bread-oven. Upstairs, in the best bed-room that was once open to the thatch, stands a very handsome carved bed-stead, "the bed in which Anne Hathaway was born"; the mattress is still supported by crossed cords, and the hand-woven linen is said to be the work of Anne Hathaway's sister. The garden is planted with flowers mentioned in Shakespeare's works. The custodians are descended from the Hathaway family.

The road that runs through the village leads N. to the Alcester Road, S. to the Evesham Road. A little further along the latter is a turning L. to Luddington (2 m.) which is of interest solely as another of the claimants to be the scene of Shakespeare's marriage. The old chapel, which was burned (with its Registers) stood up the lane to the L near the entrance to the village: all that remains of it are a few stones and the old font in the present churchyard.

From Luddington there should be a pleasant walk to Stratford along the river bank, entering the town by the church through Weir Brake, a pretty glen in which tradition sees Shakespeare musing, pen in hand; but the right of way is disputed, and it is safer to keep to the uninteresting road. In the other direction the road leads on across the Evesham road, on the R. of which, a few hundred yards further lies Binton, where the new church (open) contains three fourteenth century stone coffin-lids and an old chest made out of a single piece of oak. From Binton the Evesham road leads back to Stratford.

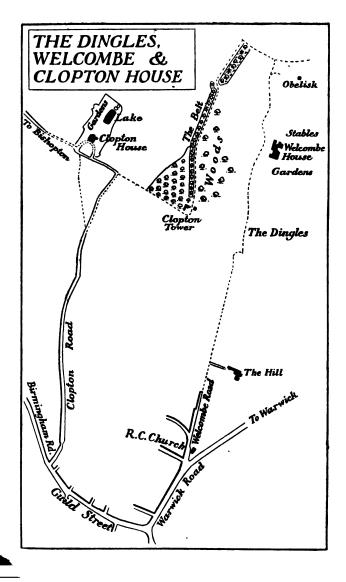
CLIFFORD CHAMBERS, WESTON-ON-AVON, WELFORD, BINTON BRIDGES

Clifford Chambers may be reached by leaving Stratford over the old tramway bridge and following the Shipston road till the first turning R. after crossing the railway, or by a path starting at the end of the footbridge below the church, which joins the same road about 1 m. out. The church (key at the sexton's in the gardens near) contains the remains of a Saxon arch over the N. door, probably also over the S., and some good Norman work. On the N. wall of the chancel are brasses to Hercules Raynsford and his wife, 1583, and Elizabeth Marrowe, his daughter, 1601, and a fragment of a shield bearing three girls' heads; close by is a monument with life-size figures to Sir Henry Raynsford, son of Hercules. Sir Henry was a great friend of Michael Drayton, a Warwickshire man. who spent three months every summer with him in the Elizabethan house at the end of the village near the The Old Vicarage is a long, low timbered house. at least as old as the fifteenth century. In 1564 it is on record that one John Shakespeare was living here; and the suggestion has been made that John Shakespeare of

Henley Street, then almost at the height of his prosperity, had moved here to escape the plague which raged that year in Stratford. On that supposition it is not impossible that William Shakespeare was born in this house. A road from here leads to Weston-on-Avon, but a pleasanter way is to return a few yards along the Stratford road past the sign-post and take a path that strikes L. across the fields. This leads close to the river-bank, and to the old farm-house called Milcote, once the moated Manor House of the Grevilles. Lodowick Greville, coveting the hoard of his tenant, Webb of Drayton, had him murdered by hired assassins, quite in the manner of the tragic plays of the day. The First Murderer then personated his victim and dictated to the Second a will, which left Webb's property to Unfortunately, a tardy remorse overtook him: he avowed his crime. Greville had him also killed by the trusty Second Murderer; but the body. which was thrown into a pit, refused to sink, and Greville and his man were hanged in 1589.

Weston-on-Avon church, now being restored, contains two good brasses to Sir John and Sir Edward Greville, 1546 and 1559. In the S. wall of the chancel is a minute "lepers" window with an immensely long squint. The same path runs on, with a good view of Meon Hill (p. 62) on the L., to Welford, where the church (key at vicarage) has a good S. door and a Norman arcade on the N., and is approached through a sixteenth century lych-gate with a tiled roof. The tower was completely gutted by fire in 1884. The main interest of the place is the may-pole on the village green. It is 75 feet high, and painted in spiral bands of red, white and blue. There was a may-pole here in Shakespeare's time, very probably painted in the same colours (cf. A Midsummer Night's Dream, iii. 2, "Thou painted may-pole!"). The Register contains an account of a flood here in 1588. Shakespeare had probably left Stratford before that time: but Titania's





speech in A Midsummer Night's Dream, ii. 2, is strangely apt:

"The nine men's morris is filled up with mud, And the quaint mazes on the wanton green For lack of tread are undistinguishable," etc.

There are no mazes now on the wanton green of Welford, and the may-pole is railed round with iron. From Welford a road running N. leads to Binton Bridges, the centre of which rests on an island that divides Warwickshire from Gloucestershire. On the hither side of the bridge is an inn with the sign of the "Four Alls"; a king, a priest, a soldier, and a yeoman: "Rule all, Pray all, Fight all, Pay all." On the far side of the bridge lies the Evesham road (Stratford $3\frac{1}{2}$ m.).

WELCOMBE, The DINGLES, and CLOPTON HOUSE.

The Welcombe road, turning L. out of the Warwick road near the Roman Catholic church, degenerates soon into a path, and passes the gardens of Welcombe House (Sir George Trevelyan), a huge red brick building on the site of a house once owned by the Combes (p. 26). The lodge of the house is on the Warwick road, and permission to view the grounds may be obtained. On a hill at the back stands an obelisk to the memory of members of the Manchester family of Philips, who built the house. A little further, the path strikes a field road which, leading L. round a wood, runs downhill among the fine trees known as The Belt. The ground on the L. is undulating and well-timbered, and from here may be seen The Dingles, which are trenches in the form of a T, possibly natural, possibly a British entrenchment. At the Clopton Tower, a little further, the lane strikes R., and leads to the front of Clopton House (Sir A. Hodgson, K.C.B.). The house is not shown; but Mr Ribton Turner, writing in 1893, says that the only part of it which Shakespeare knew is a porch at the back: the rest was built partly about 1665, partly in 1830. He

mentions an attic, on the walls of which are blackletter texts, dating from the time when the room was used as a Catholic chapel. In 1605, the tenant of the house, then the property of Lord Totnes (p. 22), was Ambrose Rookwood, who entertained here others connected with the Gunpowder Plot. John Grant lived not far off at Northbrook (p. 47); Sir Everard Digby was at Dunchurch (p. 112), and Catesby also was a Warwickshire man. On the discovery of the plot, the bailiff at Stratford searched the house and discovered a cloak-bag, apparently of colossal dimensions for it contained "copes, vestments, crosses, crucifixes, chalices, and many other massing reliques," a contemporary inventory of which is preserved at the Birth-place. A certain Charlotte Clopton is said to have been buried alive and to haunt the house, and her portrait (declared by some to be that of Arabella Stuart) hangs on the stairs. A reference to the probably mythical story is seen by some in the last act of Romeo and Juliet. Margaret Clopton in the sixteenth century drowned herself for love in the spring behind the house, and may have suggested the end of Ophelia. Clopton House is supposed to be figured in Scene ii. of the Induction to the Taming of the Shrew. From the front of the house the road runs to Bishopton; the path across the fields goes into Clopton Lane and so to the W. end of Stratford.

III

STRATFORD

HILLBOROUGH, BIDFORD (WIXFORD, EXHALL), TEMPLE GRAFTON, BILLESLEY, WILMCOTE, SNITTERFIELD:—

A ROUND that is full of Shakespearean interest.

Shakespeare, runs a story which is not recorded till 1762, set out in his salad days with two or three

friends on a prolonged drinking bout. Sleep overtook him at last under a crab apple tree near Bidford, and when his companions roused him to continue the revel, he refused, saying: "I have drunk with

> Piping Pebworth, dancing Marston, Haunted Hillborough, hungry Grafton, Dodging Exhall, Papish Wixford, Beggarly Broom and drunken Bidford."

Hillborough lies ½ m. L. of the Evesham road on the river bank between Binton and Bidford. The ghost and his story are both lost; but the house, the remains of a Tudor mansion, is worth a glance. From here a path leads along the river to Bidford Grange, another fine old farmhouse on the site of an older building, of which some fragments remain. Its position is charming. From the Grange a rough and stony road leads across three fields to the high road. Almost opposite the gate stands a new red brick house; a little further on the same side a new red brick barn, and just past the barn on the L. of the road an iron gate. The little tree close to the gate is a young crab apple, planted to mark the field in which "Shakespeare's Crab" is supposed to have stood. A steep hill runs down into "drunken" Bidford, where the church (key at the vicarage close by) stands on a slope near the river, and has a tower with a quaint turret, a good E.E. chancel, and a nameless nave of 1835. Opposite to its N. side is a noble Tudor house of stone, now cut up into tenements, but formerly the Falcon Inn, the scene of part, at least, of Shakespeare's reported carouse. The brick chimney stacks are exceptionally good.

Boats may be hired at Bidford, and a steamer runs to Evesham in the summer.

Bidford Bridge lies on the L. of the main street just beyond the hotel. The six arches are flanked on the up-stream side by wedge-shaped buttresses. The road that stretches away straight S. from the bridge is Buckle Street, part of the Roman road of Icknield Street. On the L. of it ½ m. on, lies Barton, identified by some with the "Burton's Heath" of the Induction to the Taming of the Shrew (p. 42), which, however, is more likely to be Barton-on-the-Heath (Glos.) the home of Shakespeare's aunt, Mrs Lambert. Opposite the turning to Barton is a lane that leads to Marlcliffe (pron. Marcleeve) Hill, a great place for picnics, and the beginning of the plateau that culminates in the Cotswold Hills.

From the E. end of Bidford a good road runs to "Papish" Wixford on the river Arrow. This road is really Icknield Street, deflected to cross the E.&W. J.R., leaving "beggarly" Broom (where that line joins the M.R.) on the L. At the cross roads the turning L. leads to the Fish Hotel, where fishing tickets may be had at 6d. a day; the rough lane (again Icknield Street) in front climbs to the church (key at last cottage of row close by) which has Norman doors on N. and S., and some E.E. lancet windows. The chantry chapel on the S. was built by Thomas de Cruwe, Attorney to Margaret de Beauchamp in 1400, and contains his raised tomb with exceptionally fine brass figures of himself and his wife. After every word of the inscription comes his badge, a human foot. There are two other brasses in the church.

Exhall was probably dubbed "dodging" because of its inaccessibility, and it is not worth finding. The road, which bicyclists had better avoid, starts by fording a stream at the foot of the hill below Wixford, and runs on through Exhall to Temple Grafton.

Temple Grafton is better reached by a turning N. out of the Evesham road between Binton and Bidford.

The "hungry" village is chiefly remarkable for the views of Edgehill, Campden and Malvern, which the inhabitants are proud to point out. The church, rebuilt in 1875 on the site of one that had belonged to the Knights Templars, is worth visiting for the view from the lower stage of the belfry (key at the third red house on the R. opposite the church). The Episcopal Register of Worcester contains a record of a licence issued on November 27, 1582, for the marriage of William Shaxpere and Anne Whately of Temple Grafton. Shakespeare's marriage bond is dated 28th November 1582, and it has been suggested that Whately is a mistake for Hathaway or Hathwey, and that Anne Hathaway was staying with friends in Temple Grafton at the time of her marriage and was actually married in the old church on this spot. The same road crosses the Alcester road about 2 m. further, and runs to Billesley, yet another claimant to the marriage, on a ground unknown. Billesley Hall on the R. is an Elizabethan house, said to be the remains of the mansion of the Trussel family. By the kindness of H. C. Fitzroy Somerset, Esq., visitors are allowed to see certain parts. In an upstairs room called the Boudoir is a cupboard containing a secret stairway leading to the "Priest's Hiding-place" (not now shown) behind the carved chimney-piece, in the central boss of which is a narrow slit giving a view of the room. Another room, called Shakespeare's Bed-room, is panelled with wood, said, almost certainly in error, to come from New Place. In ancient times there was a library here, and Shakespeare is said to have often made use of it and slept in the house. The keys of the quaint little church, temp. Will. iii., may be had at the Hall. In its predecessor on this site, Shakespeare's granddaughter, Elizabeth, was married to her second husband, John Barnard.

From Billesley the road runs N., and the first turning R. leads to Wilmcote, the home of Shakespeare's

mother, Mary Arden. The house called Asbies where she lived and which she inherited from her father, lies near the turning L. in the village; a gabled, timbered house with dormer windows. The present kitchen formed the living-room, and the fire-place, though now filled up, retains its corner seats in the cupboards on either side. Uneven floors and huge oak beams upstairs testify to the age of the house, and the red-tiled barn and buildings at the back are worth seeing. John Shakespeare mortgaged this property for £40 in 1578, and never recovered it. Wilmcote is possibly the Wincot of Scene ii. of the Induction to the Taming of the Shrew, where Sly names Marion Hackett, the fat ale-wife of Wincot as a reference to his identity. There is another Wincot in the parish of Quinton, but later critics choose Wilnecote, near Tamworth, Staffs. An eighteenth century tradition says that Shakespeare used to visit Wilmcote to enjoy the society of a fool, who belonged to the neighbouring mill.

From Asbies the road leads to the station, passing the quarries where lay the great Plesiosaurus now in the Warwick museum, and 1 m. further strikes the Birmingham and Stratford road. (Stratford 23 m.) A few hundred yards down, by the Dun Cow Inn, a steep hill runs up to a Gospel Oak that marks the junction of four parishes, and thence in 2 m. to Snitterfield. The church (key at vicarage opposite) which is reached by turning R. and then L. in the village, is mainly Dec. with a Perp. tower and clerestory, and is remarkable for the fifteenth century carved wood-work in the chancel. The altar rails and pulpit are Jacobean: the font fourteenth century. vicarage, a new house, stands on the site of one occupied from 1754 to 1781 by the poet, Richard Jago, author of "Edgehill," "Labour and Genius," etc. On the lawn in front of the house are the stumps of three birch-trees which fell last winter, known in their time as "The Three Ladies," and said to have been planted

by Jago's daughters. In Snitterfield, Richard, the paternal grandfather of William Shakespeare, rented land of Robert Arden, his maternal grandfather. From Snitterfield, John Shakespeare went to live in Stratford, leaving his brother Henry in the village. Their dwelling and property have not been identified. Below the vicarage is a pool, once the ornamental water belonging to Snitterfield Hall, pulled down in 1820. Much of the timber of the park still stands.

From Snitterfield a good road through Ingon, where Shakespeare bought land, strikes the Warwick and

Stratford road 11 miles from Stratford.

(Note.—Much of the going on this route is not over-good for bicycles; but in no country are the most interesting places often found on the main roads.)

IV

STRATFORD TO WARWICK

By ALVESTON, CHARLECOTE; and WASPERTON, BARFORD, SHERBORNE; or HAMPTON LUCY, FULBROOK, SHERBORNE

THE main road from Stratford to Warwick (8 m.), though good going and timbered on either side, is not interesting. It is better to start over the Clopton Bridge and turn L. to Alveston, leaving on the R. at the corner the old Manor House.

Alveston church is new, but at the N. end of the village stands the chancel of the old church (key at the P.O. on the way) with a bell-cot. Propped against the N. wall is the rude effigy of Nicholas Lane, 1595, who in 1587 sued John Shakespeare for £10. Here also are tablets to Col. Peers, who died of wounds received at

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the battle of Dettingen, and to Wm. Hiron, a farmer who was murdered at Littleham Bridge (about 1 m. further on the Wellesbourne road), and his mother, who died of the shock. Outside over the door and on the S. wall are carved stones, the former apparently representing tigers fighting. The lodge gates of Charlecote are about $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Alveston, but it is worth while to go past them and take the next turning L., for the sake of approaching the house from the front.

(When Mr Fairfax Lucy is in residence the house is shown to visitors on presentation of their cards. This rule will probably come into force again in October 1902. At present there is no admission.)

Charlecote Hall was built in 1558 by Sir Thomas Lucy in order to entertain there Queen Elizabeth, who stayed here when the house was barely finished. The ground-plan is the letter E, with the middle stroke, i.e. the porch, a little out of place to give room for the Great Hall. The only additions since that date are the library and the dining-room, built in the same style about 1833 by Mr George Lucy. The Gate-house, purely ornamental, not defensive, is, like the house, of red brick with stone dressings; it has two domed turrets and a pierced parapet. The same kind of parapet runs along the walls of the formal garden, between the gate-house and the house. Of the latter, the porch is the most elaborate part, pseudo-classic in its lower stage. Over the door are the royal arms and the initials, E. R., and the monogram T. L. fills the spandrils. On the R. lies the Great Hall, panelled in oak and lit by a huge bay window containing the Lucy arms. On the mantelpiece are busts of Oueen Elizabeth, the Sir Thomas Lucy who entertained her and tried Shakespeare for deer-stealing, and Sir Thomas, his son. The Lucy and other portraits by Janssens, Kneller, Lely, Isaac Oliver, etc., are well worth studying. In the window is an inlaid table originally at the Borghese Palace, Rome: the centre of it is the largest piece of onyx ever found. Beyond the Hall is the Library, which contains the suite of furniture, two cabinets, a sofa, an armchair and eight chairs, which was given by Elizabeth to Leicester during her stay at Kenilworth in 1575; and pictures by Gainsborough, Velasquez, and others. The feature of the Diningroom (1833) is its moulded ceiling, a modern work in sixteenth century style. The Drawing-room contains three pictures attributed to Titian, and a Florentine cabinet. Upstairs are the room and bed in which Elizabeth slept. Modern criticism inclines to believe the story (first published in 1690) that Shakespeare poached the deer at Charlecote, was brought before Sir Thomas Lucy, and in consequence of this and other troubles left Stratford, ultimately to hold Sir Thomas up to laughter as Justice Shallow, with ribald reference to the "luces," or pike, in his coat of arms (Merry Wives of Windsor, and 2 Henry IV.). Objection has been taken to it on the ground that the Lucys had not at that date the royal licence to enclose which alone can make a "park" in the technical sense of the word; but a statutable park was not necessary to the keeping of deer. See Fulbrook, below. Poaching in Shakespeare's time was not on the same social level as it is now: a vounger brother of Lord Cavendish of Hardwick was addicted to it. The Lucys were an old family in the days of Elizabeth, tracing descent from before the Conquest. One of them occurs in I Henry VI. iv. John Foxe, author of the "Booke of Martyrs," came here as tutor to Sir Thomas Lucy in 1545. The park of 200 acres is full of deer and old timber. The Avon. which passes just below the lawn on the W. side, is spanned by an eighteenth century bridge. The church (key at side door of house opposite), which lies a little N. of the gates, was rebuilt in 1851. N. of the chancel is the Lucy Chapel, containing three tombs: 1. On the E.

the altar tomb with recumbent figures of the first Sir T. Lucy, Shakespeare's enemy, and his wife; ob. 1595. Above is a glowing tribute to the lady's merits, said to be the work of her husband; but a ribald ballad, traditionally Shakespeare's, gives a different account of her conduct. 2. On the W. that of the second Sir Thomas, 1604, with effigies of himself and his first wife. His second, in a black hood, kneels by their 3. On the N. an elaborate tomb of the third Sir side. Thomas: ob. 1640 of a fall from his horse. figures are by Bernini of Rome, who sculptured them from portraits sent him by the widow. On panels at the back are a shelf of books and Sir Thomas on horseback. In the vestry stands the old Saxon font. From Charlecote there are alternative ways to Warwick. The better road runs 11 m. to Wasperton, 1 m. to the L. of the road. The church was rebuilt in 1843, and has an E. window by Pugin, some old glass in the porch and a brass to Collins, 1664. In a field close by is an exceptionally fine dovecot.

Barford, I m., has a new church, with an old tower, which still bears the bullet-marks of the Parliamentary army. Passing through on the way to cut the king off from London in 1642, they saw the royal standard flying, and fired at it. Outside the tower on the W. is the moss-grown effigy of a woman. The Avon, here gravelly and shallow, is crossed by an eighteenth century bridge. In 1901 the floods nearly reached the top. 1 m. beyond the bridge comes a turning L. to Sherborne. In the church (key at the sexton's in the village), built in 1864 by Sir Gilbert Scott, at the cost of the lady of the manor in memory of her parents, all that money and marble can do to achieve beauty has been done. I m. further the road joins the Stratford road, and runs in 2 m. to Warwick.

The other route from Charlecote to Warwick takes

the first turning L. past Charlecote church to Hampton Lucy, which contains a modern church by Rickman, with an apsidal chancel added by Sir Gilbert Scott (key at P.O.). 2 m. from Hampton Lucy, over an indifferent road, lead to Fulbrook. John, Duke of Bedford, third son of Henry IV. and Regent of France (1 and 2 Henry IV., Henry V., and 1 Henry VI.), built here early in the fifteenth century a castle. The tenant of the Court Farm laid bare some years ago a part of the foundations on Castle Hill. is nothing else left of the building. The Court Farm itself. with its enormous moats now partly filled up, stands on the site of a fortified gatehouse. The road appears to have run up the slope of the hill behind the farm. The castle was dismantled, and the materials carried on the backs of donkeys to Compton Wyniates (p. 64), where in 1509 Sir Wm. Compton used them in building his new house. Legend says that the chimneys were transported whole. Anyone who has seen the chimneys will pity the donkeys or disbelieve the legend. Immediately opposite the farm on the other side of the lane stood a church, disused early in the sixteenth century. The plough often strikes its foundations, or turns up bones and skulls in the graveyard. Sir W. Scott in 1808 was definitely told by the then owner of Charlecote, that Fulbrook, a park in the technical sense, was the scene of Shakespeare's poaching, but that account seems to have been an invention of some thirty years before.

Not far from Fulbrook, on the other side of the road to Warwick, stands Northbrook, a new house on the site of the dwelling of John Grant, a conspirator in the Gunpowder Plot. On Nov. 6th, 1605, after the plot had failed, some of the conspirators rested here on their flight, and sent a message to Father Greenway at Coughton (p. 54). When the house was searched large stores of arms and ammunition were found.

Sherborne lies 1 m. beyond Fulbrook.

v

STRATFORD

BEARLEY, WOOTTON WAWEN, ASTON CANTLOW, HASELOR, ALCESTER

FOUR m. from Stratford up the Birmingham road lies Bearley Cross (roads), where in 1651 Charles II. was all but captured by Cromwell's horse in his flight after the battle of Worcester. He was riding, disguised as a servant of Col. Lane of Bentley, with his supposed mistress, Miss Jane Lane, behind him on a pillion.

Other interest attaches to Bearley, in that it was the

home of John Shakespeare's mother.

1 m. E., on the road to Snitterfield, lie Snitterfield Bushes, a remnant of the old Forest of Arden. Here, it is said, some of the Gunpowder Plot conspirators 1 m. from Bearley Cross the road were taken. passes on the R. the gates of Edstone Hall, a modern house built on the site of one owned for centuries by the Somerviles, of whom the most famous were the Somervile who tried to murder Queen Elizabeth in 1585, and the Squire-poet, William Somervile, author of "The Chase," "Hobbinol," etc., who was born here in 1692 and is buried in the church of Wootton Wawen (i.e. the wood-town of Wagen) 11 m. further. The village lies on the Alne at the foot of a steep hill and just beyond a handsome old bridge, exactly 100 m. from London, from which there is a good view of Wootton Hall, a seventeenth century house in Italian style, with the Smith (Carrington) coat of arms on the pediment. The mill on the R. a little further, is a new edition of one mentioned by Dugdale; and just past

the mill comes the church, one of the oldest and most interesting in the district.

Admission 6d: key at the vicarage in the Henley road, reached by a footpath from the N.W. of the churchyard.

The original church, a very small cruciform building with an apse E. of the tower, was ancient at the Conquest; and of this church there still remain the two lower stages of the tower. The outside is unfortunately stuccoed: inside, the Saxon masonry is plainly visible. The eastern of its arches is said to be the smallest chancel arch known, being only 4 feet 6 inches across. The altar now stands under the tower, and the big Dec. chancel is not used. The noticeable feature of it is the great E. window of seven cinquefoil lights surrounded by the very rare series of crockets set in a hollow molding. Some of the glass in it is old. The Jacobean screen and altar rails are worth looking at. In the N. wall is a mutilated effigy of a man in armour, probably John Harewell, 1428; and within the altar rails a raised tomb with very fine brass effigies of John Harewell, 1505, and his wife. At the E. end of the nave, on either side of the tower arch, are two very curious carved oak chantrys, originally ceiled, in which the brackets for images are still to be seen. On the N. wall is a tablet to the memory of William Somervile, put up by the present vicar and a body of subscribers. S. of the chancel is a very large Dec. Lady Chapel (often wrongly called the Chantry Chapel), which is precisely the same size as the Beauchamp Chapel in Warwick church. It contains a rich, but rudely carved (perhaps unfinished) piscina, and a sepulchral arch, probably intended for the founder's tomb, the canopied tomb of Francis Smith, 1626, other monuments to the same family; and, more interesting than all, the tomb of William Somervile, a plain slab in the floor near the E. end on

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the S. side. The inscription, said to be his own composition, runs:—

H. S. E.
Gulielmus Somervile, Arm:
obiit 17 July 1742
Si quid in me Boni compertum habeas
imitare
Si quid Mali totis Viribus evita
Christo confide
Et scias te quoque fragilem Esse
et mortalem.

Under the E. window is an old chest, with ornamental iron-work: against the S. wall a later imitation. The comparison of the two is highly instructive in the difference between good work and bad. At the W. end in the vestry stands a long desk containing eight chained books wonderfully well preserved. The oldest is Calvin's "Christian Religion," 1578. The N. door is studded with Saxon double-headed nails, and the handle is of the same period. The scutcheon is pierced with a trefoil-headed design and the ring has two pieces of hammered iron in the form of snakes soldered on. These are only some of the attractions of this church, which contains specimens of Saxon, Norman, Dec. and Perp. work. In the churchyard are the tombs of two of the huntsmen of the Somervile family: on the E. John Hoit, whose epitaph is all but worn away; on the S. Jacob Boeter, the inscription on whose tombstone was written by William Somervile. Wagen, the Saxon lord, fought for William against Harold and was richly rewarded: later he took the name of Stafford and was the ancestor of the family of that name (p. 119).

The road from Wootton Wawen to Aston Cantlow is the first turning L. after passing the church. Im. further, the tempting road L. at the foot of the hill comes to a stop in the Alne. The hill must be climbed

and the main road followed. Sign-posts will give further directions.

Aston Cantlow = the east town—i.e. E. of Alcester of the Cantelupes, who owned it in the thirteenth century. The church (open) was built towards the end of that century, when the E.E. style was developing into Dec. Over the N. door is a carving, representing the Virgin and Child in bed, while the almost obliterated figure at the foot of the bed is said to be St Joseph. Inside, the original roof is very light and graceful. In the N.W. corner is a newel staircase, probably intended to lead to a parvise, of which only the little window was ever constructed. The N. aisle, originally the chantry chapel of the local Guild, contains an old Prie-Dieu, two tall wooden candelabra and two old pews, the elbows of which are carved into poppy-heads. The chancel arch has some excellent "stiff-leaf" foliage on the capitals, and the chancel contains sedilia and piscina. Aston Cantlow is an unusually pretty village, and a favourite resort with bicyclists from Birmingham. A mill near the church makes all sorts of bicycle fittings. A very fair road, with sign-posts, runs on to **Haselor**. The church here (key at vicarage, at the far end of village) is perched on a hill and approached through a field in which stand the steps and stump of a cross. It is a good specimen of E.E., much restored, but is chiefly interesting for its position. The S. porch contains some good carved wood-work.

From Haselor a good road runs straight to Alcester (pron. Aulster), crossing the Arrow by a sixteenth or seventeenth century bridge, just below its junction with the Alne. In Roman times there was a station here called Alauna, on the Icknield Street, and Roman coins and other remains are often found. The church (open) was rebuilt, except the Dec. tower, in the eighteenth century, and is interesting solely for its monuments. Under the tower is a seated figure by

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Count Gleichen, of Sir Hamilton Seymour, 1800. Close by on the wall is a quaint triptych containing pictures of various acts of charity, distressed tradespeople, etc. At the W. end of the nave is the altartomb of ffulke Greville, 1559. The Grevilles lived at Beauchamp's Court, near Alcester, and in the seventeenth century became earls of Warwick. In the S. transept is a monument to the second Marquis of Hertford, 1822, which includes an admirable figure by Chantrey of the marquis lying in bed, leaning on his left arm. A beautiful piece of carved ivory may be seen at the rectory, where it was dug up in the garden. When submitted to experts at the British Museum, it was declared to be Byzantine work, and is apparently the head of a staff. On one side is the Crucifixion: on the other the figure of Christ bruising the serpent's head.

VI

STRATFORD OR ALCESTER

COUGHTON, STUDLEY, and (1) by IPSLEY or BEOLEY to REDDITCH: (2) by FECKENHAM, INKBERROW, RAGLEY and ARROW to ALCESTER

FROM Alcester the Icknield Street, here quite at its best, runs N.W., passing at $\frac{3}{4}$ m. Beauchamp's Court, a farmhouse on the site of the mansion of the Beauchamps and of Fulk Greville (p. 76).

Coughton (pron. either Cowton or Coton) is r1 m. further. At the corner of the turning R. to the churches is the base of an old cross. This was one of the entrances to the Forest of Arden, and here travellers used to kneel before venturing into it. The first of the churches at the end of the turning is the

Catholic church (open) built by the owner of Coughton Court in 1853, the private chapel of the Court having been destroyed by a mob from Alcester in 1688 and demolished a century later. All that survives of it is the tabernacle in the N. chapel, and some good old furniture in the chancel of the present church. Close by stands what is now the English church (open), built in late Perp., by Sir Robert Throckmorton about the end of the fifteenth century. Here are the tombs of the family which has owned the place since the days of Henry VII. In the nave stands the altar-tomb intended for the founder, who died on pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1518: other members of the family are buried in it instead. Other tombs are those of Sir George Throkmorton, 1558, Sir John, 1580, Master of the Requests to Queen Mary, Sir Robert, sixteenth century, Sir Robert George and Sir Charles Thomas, nineteenth century. On the W. end of the latter is a small brass to Dame Elizabeth Throkmorton. last Abbess of Denne, 1547. The glass is old and interesting, probably late fifteenth century of the school of Dürer.

(It is not safe to say that Coughton Court can or can not be seen, as the owner, Sir Nicholas Throckmorton, is seldom there and his various tenants have various rules.) The best of the house is the centre of the W. front towards the road, built for a gatehouse in Henry VIII.'s days by Sir George Throckmorton, with a fine oriel window, tall turrets, coats of arms and inscriptions. Back from the gatehouse run the N. and S. wings: the E. side of the original moated quadrangle was formerly occupied by the chapel. These two wings, which were begun in Henry VII.'s reign, are half-timbered with carved barge-boards, and a magnificent wistaria on the N. The Hall, made out of the old gateway, has a groined roof, and in the tower is a priest's room, said to communicate with the road by a secret passage. The house has a ghost.

The Throckmortons have always been Catholics (see the inscription on the tomb of Sir John, 1819), and in 1605 Father Garnett, Father Greenway and others who were awaiting here the news of the Gunpowder Plot, received a letter from Sir Everard Digby telling them of failure.

Studley lies 2 m. further up the Icknield Street, here known as the Haydon Way. Opposite the first turning R. in the town is a new house, the vicarage, where the keys of the church are kept. The church itself lies well to the E. of the town, down the turning R., and R. again a little past the Needle Mill. It is mainly Dec. with a Norman N. door, and contains a monument to Lyttleton, 1661. The church belonged to the Canons of Studley, but it appears that the Knights Templars must have owned it at some time or other, as their badge, the Lamb and Flag, forms the spring of the chancel arch on the N. The pulpit is good. Close by is a dilapidated old building, probably belonging to the castle originally built by William, son of Corbucion, in the eleventh century, and now replaced by a sham Norman edifice built in 1834. Through a gate on the R. of the main road past the vicarage a fine avenue of elms leads to the remains of the Priory, founded by Peter Corbucion, or de Stodley, in Stephen's reign, and owned in its day by a rich and famous community of Augustinians. On the W. side of the farmhouse which now stands on its site on the river bank is the arch of a window to which was added in 1539 a chimney. On the S. side over the door is a sculptured head and in the house a fine beam with I.H.S. carved on the boss. Last year two stone coffins were dug up in the yard: the fragments of one lie there still; the other, which was whole, is in the church.

From Studley various ways may be taken.

1. The road runs N. about 15 m. to Birmingham, passing on the L. at about 3 m. Gorcott Hall, now

a farmhouse, formerly the property of the Canons of

Studley.

- 2. If Redditch is aimed at, a turning L. beyond Gorcott Hall runs to Beoley (= Beaulieu: pron. Beeley), a pretty place, where the church (key at vicarage close by) contains very early E.E. in the chancel and nave arcades, and a unique late Tudor E. window. The tombs of the Sheldons are remarkable for their number and size: the neglected-looking Perp. chapel, which has a stone altar, being the mortuary chapel of the family, who are said to have been able to ride from here to Shipston without going off their own land. The church is built on a hill-side and slopes up markedly from the W. tower to the altar. From Beoley the road runs down hill, crosses the river by a ford with a foot-bridge and joins the Redditch and Birmingham road 1 m. N. of Redditch.
- 3. A shorter way to Redditch is by the first turning L. beyond the bridge over the Arrow, which leads through Ipsley, passing at $\frac{1}{2}$ m. after leaving the Birmingham road the earthworks of a Roman camp in a field on the L. by the river. Here too were the old smelting works where, in Saxon and later times, the iron brought from the mines was melted with wood from the Forest of Feckenham (p. 56). Ipsley Court, 1 m. further, is a handsome old house, the remains of the mansion of the Hubands, afterwards of the Savages from whom it passed to Walter Savage Landor. Close by is the church (key at the scrap of village on the R. at the foot of the hill) a fourteenth century building which had once two aisles. The arcades can still be traced on the outer wall. It contains an incised stone to Nycolas Huband, 1553, and other monuments to the same family. The pulpit is Jacobean and very handsome, and there are good views from the churchvard. From here to Redditch is 2 m. on a hilly road.
 - 4. For those returning to Alcester or Stratford an

interesting round is by way of Sambourn, where the Oak Farm gains its name from an enormous oak, on to the Redditch and Evesham road at New End. Here a road (to Droitwich) runs W. about 3 m. to Feckenham passing half-way on the L. a fine timbered house known as Shurnock Court. This road is the old Salt Way, by which the salt from the Worcestershire mines

was taken to London through Banbury.

Feckenham once stood in a great forest which stretched from the Arrow to Worcester; and here the Justices in Eyre sat to try cases under the forest laws. The forest was largely cut down for fuel for the salt and iron mines, and cleared in the seventeenth century because it harboured malefactors. The church (open) is built of all styles, and was rebuilt, very evidently by Butterfield, in 1853. It contains the altar tomb of Sir Martyn Culpeper, 1664. John de Feckenham, last Abbot of Westminster, was born here. From Shurnock Court a good cross road runs to Inkberrow in 21 m. The church (key at vicarage) is Dec. and Perp. and contains a fine tomb to John Savage of Egioke, 1631. The sedilia are interesting, being in three stages, with a trefoil arch over the bishop's seat and shoulderheaded arches over the other two. At the vicarage Charles I. slept on May 10, 1645, on his way with his army to Droitwich, and left behind him a book of maps which is still preserved there. From Inkberrow the cross road runs down to join the Worcester road which goes E. past Abbot's Morton and bears sharply R. towards Broom Junction, where a train may (sometimes) be had for Stratford. The turning L. to Alcester skirts the park of Ragley Hall, the seat of the Marquis of Hertford. The park covers 700 acres and is stocked with deer. The house, which is not shown. was built in the eighteenth century and is said to contain a great collection of pictures. The third Marquis of Hertford was the prototype of the Marquis of Steyne in Vanity Fair: the fourth, 1800-1870, who never

visited England, lived in Paris, where he formed the famous collection which he bequeathed to Sir Richard Wallace, through whom it became the property of the nation as the Wallace Collection at Hertford House.

The church at Arrow (key at vicarage) has been well and richly restored by the present vicar. It retains a Norman doorway on the S., and has a semi-Gothic, semi-classic tower built in 1767. Tradition ascribes the design to Horace Walpole, who, as a relative of the Hertford family, stayed at Ragley. Under an arch in the N. aisle is the coffin lid of Gerard de Canvill, who died in 1303; and there are many handsome monuments to members of the Hertford family, two of them (Admiral Sir G. F. Seymour, 1870, and Sir G. H. Seymour, 1880), being the work of Count Gleichen.

From Arrow to Alcester is 1 m.

IIV

STRATFORD

TREDINGTON (SHIPSTON-ON-STOUR), EBRING-TON, CHIPPING CAMPDEN, MICKLETON, QUINTON, LONG MARSTON

THE road from Stratford to Shipston is that which Shakespeare travelled, perhaps on his first setting out for London, certainly on his later journeys. From Shipston the road ran through Chipping Norton and Oxford. Alongside the road for the first 6 m. run the lines of the old Shipston tramway, which, starting from the canal wharves at Stratford, used to carry coal from the S. Staffs coalfields and bring back stone. It has been idle for fifteen years. Ettington Park (S. F. Shirley, Esq.), on the L. of the road 6 m. out, has been in the possession of the Shirley family since before the Conquest. It contains the ruins of a church, but is not shown,

A little beyond the seventh milestone is a turning R. to Armscote. It is worth while facing a steep and stony road to see a quaint hamlet full of old houses. gabled stone Manor House on the R. of the inn has been renovated inside, but contains much oak panelling; from the staircase a hidden passage (now too unsafe to be shown) leads to a secret room. In this room George Fox, the Quaker, who visited Ettington on his travels, is said to have taken refuge. The road remains bad until the highway is reached again at Tredington, which has a very old and carefully restored church (key at the rectory). Part of it was standing before the Conquest, and the recent restoration disclosed the Saxon arch-heads under the present clerestory windows. The fine S. doorway is Transitional Norman, the arch richly ornamented with chevron, and the capitals carved in very early "stiffleaf" foliage. The arcades and the N. door, which has a parvise over it, are also Norman. The clerestory and roof are fifteenth century, like the seats, which are carved. The pulpit, with its sounding-board, is a rarely beautiful piece of Elizabethan carved wood-work mounted on a new base. In the floor of the chancel are brasses to Cassey, circ. 1420 and Sampson, 1482. In one of the chests in the vestry is the fragment of another brass. The present reredos is the mensa of the old altar, and has five of its consecration crosses still visible. On the N. door are the marks of bullets fired by the Parliamentary forces in the Civil War. They also broke the image in the niche above. the back of the rectory are the remains of a much older house, which seems to have enclosed a courtvard. The present coach-house was the kitchen, and still retains a huge open fire-place and massive beams in the roof.

From Tredington to Shipston the road runs mainly

uphill, and the town contains little of interest. The church (key at sexton's, opposite the Board school) rebuilt in 1855, contains nothing worth seeing, except an amusing epitaph to one Hyckes of Barston (Barcheston) ob. 1652, which begins:

"Here lyes Entomb'd more men then Greece admir'd more then Pythagoras transient Soul Inspir'd many in one, A man accumulate Gentleman, Artist, Scholar, Church, World, State Soe wise, soe just that Spot him noe man could," etc.

It is just as well to go back from Tredington $\frac{1}{2}$ m. towards Stratford and turn L. along the Fosse way, here a good road, which strikes the Shipston to

Campden road 3 m. further S.

Ebrington, 3 m. from the junction, has a good Norman church, of which the S. door is especially noticeable. In the chancel is the altar tomb of Sir John Fortescue, Chief Justice of the King's Bench in 1442. At the battle of Towton in 1461 he fought for Henry VI. of Lancaster against Edward IV. of York (3 Henry VI. ii.), and being attainted after the Yorkist victory, fled to France with Margaret of Anjou and her son, for whom he wrote his Latin treatise on the laws of England. Returning with them in 1471 he shared the terrible defeat of Tewkesbury (3 Henry VI. v. 4, 5), after which his attainder was reversed, and he was allowed to retire to his Ebrington estates, where he died in 1486, aged ninety. In the S. aisle is an altar tomb to one of the Keyt family, and a bust of Sir Jonathan Keyt, Bart., a Royalist, who died in 1662. The pulpit of carved oak is dated 1679.

The 2 m. from Ebrington to Chipping Campden are mainly uphill. The tower of this remarkable church can be seen for miles. The architecture is decidedly Flemish, and the church a grand one, with fluted pillars and large fifteenth-century windows. Campden, where in the seventh century the Saxon kings met to

discuss the question of a treaty with the Britons, was in the fourteenth century the centre of the English wool trade, lying close to the Cotswolds, always famous for their sheep. The church has many monuments to the wealthy merchants, notably the fine brass of William Grevel, "flos mercator' lanar' tocius Angliæ." and others in the chancel floor. This Grevel built. or helped to build the church. On the N. side of the chancel is a stone coffin, discovered early in the eighteenth century. It contained scraps of clothes of Richard III.'s date, which have since fallen to pieces. There was also discovered a chest containing a cope, of crimson velvet "semee of ducal Coronets and Estoiles," which is usually kept at the vicarage. Lately it has been sent away to have the colour taken as a pattern for the Coronation robe of Edward VII. S. transept is filled with the colossal black and white marble tomb of Baptist, Lord Hicks, Viscount Campden, 1629, with twelve Corinthian columns and lifesize effigies. Other monuments of this family are close by, including that of his daughter, the wife of Lord Noel who died while at Oxford with Charles I. in 1642. This Lord Noel was the builder of the Manor House. just S. of the church; of its four fronts, its portico with columns of the five orders, and its twisted chimneys with Corinthian capitals, nothing remains. The house was burned down by its builder to prevent the Parliamentary forces from taking and garrisoning it: and all that is left is the gate-house, consisting of two pavilions connected with a screen, "with Pediments," says Bigland, "of a form that defies description." the main street are several fine old stone houses: the Court House has remnants of a fourteenth-century building, and the Market House was built by Baptist Hicks in 1624.

On the L. of the road from Campden to Mickleton rises Dover's Hill, where in 1610, Robert Dover, an attorney of Barton-on-the-Heath, started his yearly

Olympic or Cotswold Games at Whitsuntide. Contemporary poets, among them Ben Jonson, wrote verses for the occasion. The games were stopped by the Puritans, but revived later; and Somervile's poem "Hobbinol," was written for them. Page's fallow greyhound, it will be remembered, was "out-run on Cotsall" (Merry Wives of Windsor, i. 1); but the play was written before 1610.

Soon after the cross roads are passed Norton House, the seat of the Earls of Harrowby, lies on the L.

From Campden a good road runs down to Mickleton, 3 m. There is good Norman and Dec. work in the church (key at the old house on the R. at the corner of the Evesham road), and the arcades are Transitional, with "stiff-leaf" foliage on the capitals. The pulpit is Jacobean, and there are scraps of old glass in the E. windows of the N. and S. aisles. Among other monuments to the Fisher and Graves families is one erected by Richard Graves, the antiquary, in 1721 to his kindred from 1616-1710. This Richard Graves was a friend of the poet Shenstone, who used frequently to stay in the gabled stone Manor House close to the church. The monument of Utrecia Smith in the S. aisle, an urn bearing the epitaph: "Puellæ simplici, innocuæ, eleganti; R.G. Una actæ memor pueritiæ Mærens posuit MDCCXLIV" composed by Richard Graves, suggested to Shenstone his elegy, "Ophelia's Urn." Graves was the author of "Recollections" of Shenstone, and of the "Spiritual Don Quixote." The Manor House was once the home of Endymion Porter.

After leaving Mickleton, the high road turns sharp R., and $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. further is a turning L. to **Quinton**. In the church (open) the S. arcade is Norman, the N. is E.E. with traces of fresco. Both aisles have sedilia. The font is Norman. The monuments include the altar tomb of Thomas Rous, 1499, and an excellent brass to Joan Clopton, circ.

1430. ½ m. S. of the village is **Meon Hill**, with entrenchments which are probably those of a British camp, used later by the Saxons. The view is wide and makes the hill well worth climbing. N. of the village is Radbrook, the old seat of the Lingen family. Tradition has it that here Shakespeare used to read in the library. A little N. of Radbrook is Wincot, possibly referred to in the Induction to the *Taming of the Shrew* (p. 42).

From Quinton village a road strikes W. across the Campden road to Long Marston, or Marston Sicca. the "dancing Marston" of the rhyme (p. 39). name was no more than due, for the Marston morrisdancers were famous and performed before Elizabeth at Kenilworth in 1575 (p. 93). Almost opposite the road from Ouinton stands a house known as King Charles's House (shown by kind permission of Captain Carrow, R.N.), which was visited by Charles II. in his flight after the battle of Worcester, while travelling as a servant of Miss Jane Lane. He was set to turn the spit and nearly betrayed himself by his lack of skill. The spit is preserved in a glass case in the house, together with a lance which he is said to have carried. The church (key at the vicarage) is of Dec. and Perp. architecture. In a field near it stand the remains of an E.E. chapel, now turned into a cottage. The best way from Marston to Stratford is to return to the high road, which runs between Starveall and Cold Comfort farms, through Clifford Chambers.

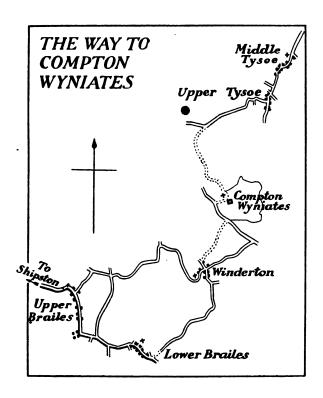
VIII

STRATFORD

WHATCOTE, OXHILL, TYSOE, COMPTON WYNIATES, BRAILES, BARCHESTON, SHIP-STON-ON-STOUR

THE main road from Stratford to Banbury passes through Ettington at 6 m., and opposite the seventh

milestone is a turning R. to Whatcote, where the church has a Norman N. door, an E.E. tower, and a Dec. chancel arch; small monuments to Nelle and



Auldyngton, fifteenth century rectors, and a tablet to Davenport, rector 1597-1668, who died at the age of one hundred and four. One view holds the bowl of the font to be Saxon.

64 A GUIDE TO STRATFORD-ON-AVON

Oxhill lies 11 m. N.-W. of Whatcote over a poor The church (key at vicarage) has a considerable amount of Norman work in it, including the N. and S. doors and the chancel (except the E. window, which is new). The Transitional Norman font has a carving of Adam and Eve. In the floor is a slab to Daniel Blackford, a Royalist, with a good inscription. The beautiful chancel screen of original Dec. work with a new top, was brought here from another place: probably from Oakham, though local legend says a theatre in London. From Oxhill a very fair road bearing L. runs in 2 m. to Middle Tysoe, where the church lies up to the L. (key at vicarage). The S. wall of the nave was standing two hundred years before the Conquest, and was then the outer wall. The restoration in 1854 brought to light the two original windows which can be seen between the Norman bays. The S. porch has a beautiful Norman doorway surmounted by the Lamb and Flag of the Knights Templars (of Balsall, p. 100), who held property here. The chancel arch and the arches of the N. aisle are E.E., the font and clerestory Dec., and the chancel good Perp. In the wall of the N. aisle is the mutilated figure of some benefactor to the church, and a brass to a priest, Mastropp, 1475. There are brasses also to Browne, 1598 and 1611, and in the chancel the effigy of Clarke, 1618. Last summer the tower barely escaped destruction by fire.

The road to Compton Wyniates, a most difficult place to find, is this: through Upper Tysoe, on past the sign-post, along the next turning R. marked "To Shipston." I m. further, where the road bends sharply R. at the foot of a little hill, there is a gate immediately ahead. Through this gate a good road across three fields comes out by the Compton Wyniates stables and round the church to the front door.

⁽The house is shown on Wednesdays and Saturdays when the family are away.)

The name Wyniates implies that there was a vine-The Comptons have probably held the place since the Conquest, but the fortunes of the family were mainly founded by Sir William, temp. Henry VIII., a great favourite with the king, who gave him Fulbrook. The materials of the castle (p. 47) he brought here about 1509, to use in building his new house, in which Henry VIII. stayed. His grandson was ennobled by Elizabeth, who also stayed here. The second baron married the daughter of the wealthy Sir John Spencer, Lord Mayor of London in 1594, winning her against her father's wishes by pretending to be the baker's man, and so gaining admittance to the house with a huge bread-basket, in which he smuggled the lady away. The story goes that he met her father on the stairs, and was tipped sixpence for being industrious. Queen Elizabeth made his peace. James I. stayed with him and made him Earl of Northampton: Charles I. stayed with his son. In June 1644, the house was besieged for three days by the Parliamentary forces and finally captured; six months later Sir Charles and Sir William Compton came by night from Banbury and tried to retake it without success.

The house lies in a wooded hollow, and is perhaps the most picturesque building in the district. The beauty of its gables, chimneys and brick and timber front surpasses even that of Charlecote. The porch bears the arms of Henry VIII. above the gateway, and the old oak gates are marked with bullet-holes. Beyond them lies the Quadrangle, and immediately opposite, lit by a great bay-window, is the Banqueting Hall, which goes right up to the roof. It is suggested that the ceiling came from Fulbrook, as it was evidently not made for this room. The linen-fold panelling, the oak screens and the elm table, a solid piece of wood 13 feet long, should be noticed. Overlooking the Hall is the Musicians' Gallery. The Drawing-room has a

magnificent chimney-piece from Canonbury House, the Islington residence of Sir John Spencer. Next to it is the Chapel Drawing-room, the panels of which open over the Chapel, now dismantled and used as a bicyclehouse. Henry VIII.'s Bedroom has old stained glass and old furniture. Just beyond it the Guard-room has a secret exit by a very narrow staircase in the thickness of the wall leading to a hiding-place above. Council Chamber has the best wood-work in the house, and possesses no less than four doors, three of which lead up little staircases to the Priest's Room, where there is a slab of elm marked with five consecration crosses, anciently the altar in the days when Mass was said here in secret. Behind the chimney is a hidingplace. The Barracks over the Drawing-room are now divided by partitions, but were formerly one long gallery. The huge beams of the roof are noticeable. At the far end is the room occupied by the officers, which has a secret staircase leading up to the roof, and formerly had one going downwards. There are other secret chambers and haunfed rooms in the house; but the outside will always be its chief attraction. formal garden on the E., beautiful in itself, is one of the best places from which to see the house.

The church (keys at the house next to the stables) which dates from 1663, replacing one destroyed in the Civil War, is full of monuments to the Comptons, some of which were thrown into the moat when the old church was destroyed and taken out again after the Restoration. There are banners and armour on the walls. The ceiling of the double nave is painted to represent on the N. Day with the sun shining; on the S. Night with moon and stars. From the S. front an avenue runs up to the road. The turning sharp outside the gate commands beautiful views of the house through the trees. At the top of the hill on the R. is Compton Pike, a stone pyramid put up to guide travellers to the secluded spot. The next turning R.

runs down to Winderton; from which, when the roads fork, Brailes may be reached by the direct but rough road L., or the long and better kept detour R. on to the Shipston road. The church at Brailes (key at the vicarage) is known as the Cathedral of the Feldon (p. 140). There is practically none of the Norman church left. The earliest part is the E.E. lancetwindows in the S. aisle, the elaborate cornice and parapet above them being Dec. like the chancel, the N. aisle and the font. The tower is Perp. and particularly fine, and contains a hermit's room on the first floor. In the chancel are triple sedilia and an aumbry.

From Brailes the Shipston road climbs steeply through Upper Brailes leaving on the R. Castle Hill, a high, fir-covered knoll, once a British camp; and in about 4 m. reaches the turning L. to Barcheston, an interesting little village. The tower of the É.E. church leans noticeably, owing probably to the clay soil on which it is founded. The accident evidently happened during the building, for a buttress of the same date has been added, and while the W. arch of the N. aisle leans also, the rest do not. The tower also contains a chamber for a hermit. In the S. chapel is a monument with recumbent figures of Willington and his wife of "Barson," and a brass to a priest. In the W. end are some very old, roughly made pews. At the Rectory, an old house which has its own ghost, are preserved two chained black-letter books. The gabled stone farm house opposite has some fine oak panelling and an open fire-place. From the village a field road leads on to the main road 1 m. from Shipston, which is 10 m. from Stratford.

IX

STRATFORD TO BANBURY

By RADWAY, EDGEHILL (PILLERTON HERSEY. BUTLER'S MARSTON), WROXTON, DRAYTON

THE direct road from Stratford to Banbury contains nothing of interest, and is ill-kept. The better way is by Wellesbourne and a turning R. about 2 m. beyond

Kineton to Radway, before climbing the hill.

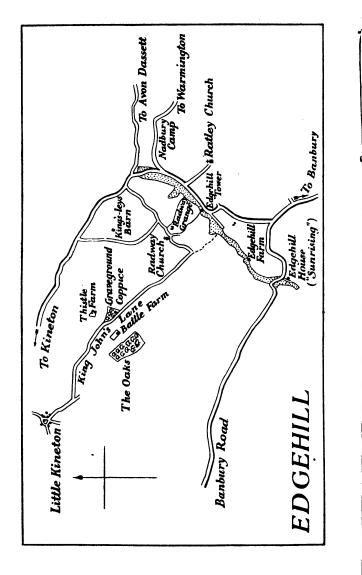
Radway church (key at the house close by) was built in 1866, but from the old church, which stood on another site, were brought the mutilated figure of a priest on the N. of the chancel, and the monument under the tower to Henry Kingsmill, killed at the battle of Edgehill while fighting for the king. white horse is said to have made him a conspicuous In a window N. of the chancel is some good old glass. On the other side of the road opposite the W. end stands the Grange, where Fielding is said to have read the MS. of "Tom Jones" to Lord Chatham, who used to stay here. From Radway it is best to return to the main road, bearing R. through the village, and climb Edgehill up the N.E. slope, known as Knowle End. Half-way up on the R. stands a clump of trees called The Crown, where the princes Charles and James watched the battle with the Dr Harvey who discovered the circulation of the blood. He is said to have been so engrossed in a book he was reading as to have brought himself and his charges into serious danger.

Once at the top, it is best to go straight on to Edgehill Tower, or Roundhouse, built in 1750 with sham

ruins behind it.

(Admission 2d.: entrance through the inn adjoining.)





In September 1642, three weeks after raising his standard at Nottingham, Charles I. was at Shrewsbury. On October 12, he set out to march on London. Earl of Essex left Worcester to try and intercept him. The king was at Kenilworth on the 19th and 20th, at Southam on the 21st, at Edgcote House on the 22nd. Here he was roused at 3 A.M. on Sunday, the 23rd, by a message from Prince Rupert at Wormleighton (p. 135) who had heard from his pickets on the Burton Dassett hills (p. 133) of Essex's advance. He started at once, passed through Cropredy and Mollington where his army lay, and came through Warmington to occupy Edgehill. His banner was unfurled on the spot where the Roundhouse now stands. Meanwhile the Parliamentary army had drawn up with Kineton behind them, their R. being some distance to the spectator's L. of Battle Farm and their L. just beyond the main road to Kineton. Cromwell, still a "staid, most pacific, solid farmer of three-and-forty," and member for Cambridge, was Captain of troop 67 of Essex's regiment, whose position was almost exactly on the present Battle Farm. The king reconnoitred from the Crown on Knowle End, and finding his forces superior gave the order to advance down the hill, at that time bare of trees, into the valley, then an open common. Battle was joined about 2 P.M., the king himself taking up a position in the angle of King John's Lane and the road through Radway. The Parliamentary R. fired the first gun: the king's cavalry on the L. charged, and after some fierce fighting at Battle Farm were repulsed. Then it was that Sir Faithful Fortescue deserted from the Parliamentary L. and galloped over to Prince Rupert on the Royalist R. Rupert charged, broke the enemy's L., and chased them as far as Kineton: much too far, for when, on John Hampden's arrival there with more troops from Stratford, he retired to Chadshunt (p. 107) to reform his forces and returned to the battlefield, he found

that the King's Guards in the centre had been worsted by Essex, and that the Parliamentary L. had defeated the Royalist R. The battle was over by 5 P.M., and neither side had gained much. Essex, too weak to advance, fell back on Warwick; while, though the king still held the London road, the moderate Royalists refused to take Prince Rupert's advice to march on the capital, and the army withdrew to Oxford. Many of the slain were buried where now stands Graveground Coppice and in trenches round Battle and Thistle Farms. The neighbouring churchyards contain many more. The king is said to have spent the night in King's Leys Barn. The way he took down the hill was long known as King Charles's Road, but is now no more than a not easily discernible track through the woods from Knowle End. Next morning he breakfasted in a house near the site of the Roundhouse.

King John's Lane, fair going for bicycles, runs right across the centre of the battlefield. It can be reached either through Radway, or down a steep path starting from the by-road W. of the Roundhouse. The view from the Roundhouse embraces eleven counties, the Wrekin being occasionally visible. At the S.W. end of the hill stands Edgehill House, formerly a famous coaching inn called the "Sunrising." The front is new, the back is said to be Elizabethan. The house is not shown but contains, or has contained, relics of the battle. The Earl of Lindsey, commanding in the king's centre, was carried mortally wounded to this house, before being taken to Warwick, on reaching which he died. Here James I. is said to have slept. and Charles I. just before his meeting with the queen at Tysoe in 1643 (p. 16). In a wood behind the house there used to be a Red Horse cut in the ground, an unworthy descendant of one on another spot, which was either a Saxon work, or cut to commemorate the gallantry of Richard Nevil, Earl of Warwick, fighting on the Yorkist side at the battle of Towton, 1461. A new road in course of construction has obliterated all but the feet of the younger steed.

From here the main Stratford and Banbury road runs to Stratford in 12 m. 4 m. on, a turning R. leads to Kineton by Pillerton Hersey (the Herseys owned the Manor, temp. Henry VIII.) where the church (key at vicarage close by) is the finest specimen of E.E. in the district. The chancel arch, E. window and S. door are especially fine, and the proportions of the large chancel admirable. Between this and Kineton lies Butler's Marston, still owned by a descendant of John Woodward, lord of the manor, who raised a troop of horse for the king and was killed at Edgehill. In the centre of the village is a tumulus.

Between the Roundhouse and the "Sunrising" the two roads to Banbury meet. A little further on the L. is Upton House, a beautiful place, once owned by Francis Child, the great banker, whose grand-daughter made a Gretna Green match with Lord Westmoreland in 1782. Their daughter married the Earl of Jersey, whose descendants own, but do not inhabit, the place. 4 m. further is Wroxton. The church is chiefly interesting for the monuments of the families of Pope, Earls of Downe, who acquired the abbey after the Dissolution, and of North, Earls of Guildford, who still hold it. These include the altar-tomb of Sir William Pope, Earl of Downe, 1631; a monument by Flaxman to Frederick, Earl of Guildford, 1792, better known as Lord North, Prime Minister 1770, who laid the tax on tea which was the immediate cause of the American War of Independence; Beata, Countess of Downe, and her son Henry Pope, who died at Trinity College, Oxford (founded by his ancestor, Sir T. Pope in the sixteenth century) in 1665.

The Abbey (Lord North, 11th Baron) may be seen by applying for a ticket at the agent's office in the village. The house was built in 1618 on a site occupied till the Dissolution by a small community of Augustinians. It contains many valuable pictures and relics, including a quilt made by Mary, Queen of Scots, the "North Chest," presented full of plate by George III. to his Minister, banners, armour, etc. James I. stayed here, and Charles I. and his queen came to this house after their meeting at Tysoe. The grounds are fine, and have much ornamental water. Outside the village at the cross roads is an obelisk or sign-post, "erected by Mr Francis White in the yeare 1686."

At the Banbury end of the park is **Drayton**, where the church (key at vicarage) lies at the bottom of the vicarage drive and is completely hidden from the road. It dates mainly from the fourteenth century, and contains two early fifteenth century incised stones (one half buried under a heap of coke under the tower) to the Grevilles, the walls of whose house may be seen among the farm buildings near the church. The W. pillar of the N. aisle has a quaintly carved capital, and in the N. aisle is the founder's tomb, carved with Aaron's rod. Roman remains have been found in the village.

Banbury lies 2 m. further.

\mathbf{x}

STRATFORD TO EVESHAM

By BIDFORD and (1) SALFORD PRIORS, HAR-VINGTON, NORTON; (2) CLEEVE PRIOR, LITTLETON.

(1) SALFORD PRIORS lies about 2 m. beyond Bidford on the R. bank of the river. The church contains monuments to the Clarke family who held the manor

from the time of Rufus to 1669. On the L. halfway between Salford Priors and Harvington is an Elizabethan stone house, known as the Nunnery. From 1808 to 1838 it was the abode of some Benedictine nuns who came over from France to escape the effects of the Revolution. Salford Priors, formerly surrounded by marshes which have been drained, is interesting for the fossil remains that have been found in it. At Park Hall farm a pair of elk's horns were discovered. Bones of animals have been found 12 feet below the surface in the diluvium below the gravel which was full of marine fossils. Harvington has a Norman church, and is remarkable for its fifteenth century houses. Norton church has monuments to the families of Bigg and Verney, and possesses a marble lectern which was made for Evesham Abbey in 1206 and discovered in the ruins. In 1865 it was brought to this church from the grounds of the Abbey Manor House at Evesham (p. 124).

(2) The other route crosses the bridge at Bidford

and runs along the L. bank of the river.

A mile beyond Marcleeve lies Cleeve Prior, once a Roman military station. Here is an old farm-house with an arched yew hedge, known as "The Twelve Apostles," leading to the front door. 2 m. further are N. and Middle Littleton where the church has Norman and E.E. work and a fifteenth century Throckmorton tomb. Near the church stands a tithe-barn once belonging to Evesham Abbey, built by Abbot Ombersley in the fourteenth century. S. Littleton has a church mainly Dec. The Manor House to the L. of the main road is a good example of the domestic architecture of William III.'s time. 1½ m. further the road runs into the Evesham and Campden road, 2 m. E. of Evesham.

ΧI

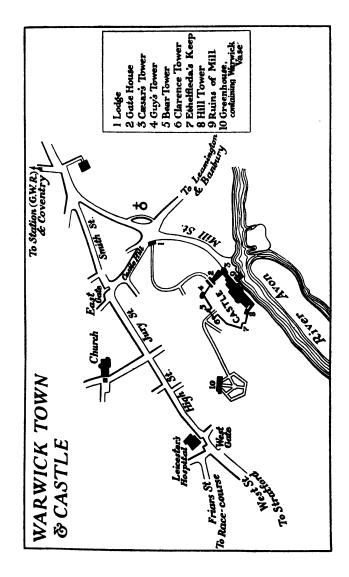
WARWICK

THE road from Sherborne enters Warwick (Waring wic, Sax. = the place of the Waring tribe), by the W. gate, which dates from Stephen's reign, and is built on a visible foundation of solid rock. The roof of the covered way is vaulted, and the old hinges still remain. Above it is the chapel of the Leicester Hospital.

(Admission: 9-6, or dusk. 6d.)

The date, 1571, displayed on the walls of the hospital, is not that of its erection, but of its endowment by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. The building itself dates from 1382, and was originally the Hall of the Guilds of St George the Martyr and of the Holy Trinity and the Blessed Virgin. After the Dissolution it came into the hands of the Corporation of Warwick, who made it over to the Earl for his proposed hospital for twelve poor men hurt in the wars. To this day it is occupied by old soldiers nominated by Lord de L'isle and Dudley, as the founder's descendant. On Sundays the brethren wear very dark blue gowns with silver badges of Leicester's arms, the "bear and ragged staff." All the badges except one are those originally given by Leicester. The chapel was restored in 1863 by Sir Gilbert Scott, who built the ugly flying buttresses on the S. The fourteenth century roof was retained, but the rest of the wood-work is new. Under the tower at the W. is a little room, the old chapel of the Guild, where the piscina remains: there are also two old wooden stools used for supporting the coffins of the brethren. From the chapel a walk along the top of the city walls (said to date from 950 A.D.) leads to the Garden, where every brother has his own little plot. The Norman





arch now standing here was dug up under the altar of the chapel at the restoration. The Egyptian vase (dating from the Roman occupation of Egypt) was formerly at Warwick Castle, but presented to the hospital to make room for the Tivoli vase. On the way from the garden to the Kitchen the enormous adzed beams are worth noticing. The kitchen contains a Saxon chair, with basket-work carving, the chair in which James I. sat at the banquet, a few lines and the signature of Leicester's will, a piece of needlework attributed to Amy Robsart, and many trophies of war collected by the brethren. The Courtyard outside the kitchen is one of the finest extant specimens of timberwork. On the N. is the Master's Lodge, on the E. a covered way above a flight of steps leading to the brethren's rooms, on the W. the old Banqueting Hall, now used as coal-cellars, etc. This hall was originally both longer and wider than it is now; the rule admitting the residence of the brethren's wives having compelled its reduction in order to give space elsewhere. The roof-beams are of Spanish chestnut, on which no spider will spin. A tablet on the wall records that James I. supped here in 1617 as the guest of Sir Fulk Greville, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and ancestor of the present Earl of Warwick. On the S. of the courtyard is the entrance gate, over which is an Elizabethan sun-dial. On the opposite side of the street are some houses of equal age with the hospital.

In Church Street, a turning L. out of High Street, stands **St Mary's Church** (open). The great fire of 1694 destroyed all but the E. part of the then existing building. The nave, aisles and tower were rebuilt soon afterwards. They look their best at the distance of a few miles. On the W. pillar of the S. aisle is a bust of Walter Savage Landor, 1864. On the E. side of the N. transept is a good brass to John Oken and wife; on the W. a monument with a punning Latin inscription to Holyoke, Rector of Southam. In the S. transept, near

the door of the Beauchamp Chapel, is the brass of Thomas Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, ob. 1401, and his wife: the tomb of which this formed part was destroyed in the fire. The chancel was begun by Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, in the reign of Edward III., and completed with the rest of the church by his son, Thomas, near the end of the fourteenth century. The best feature is the roof with its four bays supported by flying ribs springing from between the windows. Sedilia and piscina on the S. and the "Sepulchre" on the N. may also be noticed. The reredos and stalls are modern. The tomb with recumbent figures in the centre is that of Thomas de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, ob. 1369, the first of those mentioned above. N. of the chancel runs a passage. N. of which again stands the Chapter-house, still containing its stone seats. The centre is given up to the monument of Fulke Greville, Lord Broke, the first Greville owner of the castle, and "friend to Sir Philip Sidney." He was murdered in London by his manservant in 1628. The Crypt (adm. 2d.), entered by a door on the N. of the corridor, was built in the twelfth century by Roger de Newburgh, Earl of Warwick, and is Norman in style, with the exception of the E. pillar, which is Dec., and was added by Thomas de Beauchamp when he rebuilt and lengthened the chancel. The best view of the pillars and vaulted roof is to be had from the S. side, facing W. Here is preserved a duckingstool. On the N. the old kitchen used by the members of the College of Priests founded by Roger de Newburgh is now the mausoleum of the Grevilles, the present holders of the title. The Beauchamp Chapel (adm. 6d.) lies on the S. of the chancel. The ornate doorway is perhaps an eighteenth century restoration or copy of the original. The floor, paved with black and white marble, lies considerably lower than that of the chancel, there being no crypt beneath. This chapel, built in the middle of the fifteenth century under the will of Richard

de Beauchamp as a mortuary chapel for himself, is elaborate Perp. work, the walls both inside and out being covered with panelling. The reredos, quite out of keeping with the rest, dates from 1705. Carved oak stalls run down each side, and the roof is groined in three bays. The mullions of the E. window are covered with small niches filled with painted statues, and the empty niches on either side are said to have contained figures of solid gold, which were melted down, to-gether with a gold figure of the Virgin over the altar, by the Parliamentary forces in the Civil Wars. The fact that the then Earl of Warwick was a Parliamentarian may account for the escape of the chapel from any merely wanton damage. The founder's tomb, surmounted by the brass hoops of a bier, stands almost in the middle. The fully armed effigy is of gilt brass, and the base of Purbeck marble. At the corners are four tall brass candlesticks, and round the sides fourteen figures of the founder's relatives under canopied niches. The figures are slightly damaged by the heavy gold fringe of the crimson velvet pall, which, until a century ago, used to hang over the hoops; and the polish of the marble was spoiled by the lime in the plaster of Paris used to take a cast of the tomb for the Exhibition of '51. In the seventeenth century the floor of the chapel fell in, and the body, till then perfect, fell away on exposure to the air. This Richard de Beauchamp, a famous soldier, and known as "the father of courtesy," is the Earl of Warwick of Shakespeare's 2 Henry IV., Henry V., and 1 Henry VI. He succeeded John, Duke of Bedford (p. 47), as Lieutenant-Governor of France, and died at Rouen in 1439. Against the N. wall stands the tomb of Elizabeth's favourite, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester; and his third wife, Lettuce, widow of the Earl of Essex. Their effigies lie under an enormous and highly-coloured marble structure, which has neither beauty nor dignity. He died in 1588. On

the S.W. of the founder's tomb is that of Leicester's brother, Ambrose, the "good" Earl of Warwick, ob. 1589. The face is full of character. A long inscription records his deeds. Against the S. wall is the monument of the "noble Impe" (= child), Leicester's son by his third wife. The boy was deformed, as the effigy shows, and died (or possibly was poisoned by his nurse) in 1584, aged three. His suit of armour is preserved in the castle. N. of the Beauchamp Chapel, and separated from it by a panelled stone screen, is a little Chantry Chapel, with a rich groined roof, an ornate niche over the E. window and a unique wooden From this chapel four steps, made of very soft stone, and all but worn away, lead to a very small chamber next to the chancel. At the E. end is a squint, through which the chantry priest could see the high altar. Jury St., a continuation of High St., runs to the E. gate, over which is a chapel, originally built in the reign of Henry VI., and restored in 1788. Just below the gate on the L. stands the house in which Walter Savage Landor was born in 1775. His father was a doctor.

From the E. gate Castle St. leads down to the Lodge (built in 1800) of The Castle.

(Tickets, 1s. each, at 7 Mill St. opposite. Parcels, bicycles, etc., left in Lodge, 1d. each.)

From the Lodge a road cut through the solid rock for 100 yds. curves round to the Barbican, on either side of which is a tower, Cæsar's Tower on the L., and Guy's Tower on the R. Over the moat a stone arch has taken the place of the drawbridge. The Barbican, two storeys high, has a turret on either side, and a portcullis. Over the portcullis are holes through which burning pitch, etc., could be poured. Within the Barbican is a small courtyard flanked by high walls, beyond which stands the Gatehouse, with its portcullis, turrets and loopholes like the Barbican.

Both date from the fourteenth century. Cæsar's Tower, built circ. 1350 by the Thomas de Beauchamp who began the chancel of the church, is a triumph of fortification, 147 ft. high, founded on the solid rock, and impossible to undermine. The base (best seen from Mill St.) slopes outward, so that missiles dropped from above should fly into the faces of an attacking force.

Guv's Tower was built by the son of the above in 1304, and is 128 ft. high. On the R. of the Inner Court are two unfinished towers: (1) next to Guy's Tower, the Bear Tower, begun by Richard III. in 1483, while the castle was the property of his nephew, the son of George, Duke of Clarence, ob. 1478, who began to build (2) the Clarence Tower. Under the Bear Tower is a subterranean passage, the course of which has not been traced. Opposite the Gatehouse is the North Tower, standing on the mound known as Ethelfleda's Keep, which is said to have been raised and fortified in 915 by Ethelfleda, daughter of Alfred the Great, and enlarged by Turchil, Earl of Warwick, temp. William I. On the L. of the Keep stands the Hill Tower, and next to it, occupying the whole L. side of the court, is the residential part of the castle. A small entrance near the Chapel leads into a lobby, which, like every part of the castle that is shown, is hung with interesting and valuable pictures. The Chapel itself dates from the eighteenth century. The Armoury, cut in the thickness of the wall, contains arms of all countries and ages; and the Green Drawing-room (in which stands the famous Grimani table, inlaid with precious stones, and brought from the Grimani palace in Venice), the Red Drawingroom, the Cedar Drawing-room, the State Bedroom (where many sovereigns have slept, and where the bed-hangings and furniture belonged to Queen Anne), the Boudoir and the Great Hall (the two last are not shown when the family is in residence) are all hand-

some rooms, full of choice furniture and a priceless collection of pictures, of which the commissionaire will give full details. The windows command beautiful views of the river and the gardens, where stand the great cedars, said to have been brought from Lebanon by the Crusaders, but really planted in the eighteenth century. The Great Hall, the oldest part of the building. dating from the end of the thirteenth century, was gutted by fire in 1871. Its restoration led to the discovery of the clerestory windows, which apparently used to light some rooms above the older roof, which was of carved oak. The three large windows are new. The dais is said to have stood at the far end, and the arches opposite, also discovered after the fire, led to the kitchens. The mantelpiece was brought from Rome to replace that destroyed in 1871.

Of the various things here shown, said to have belonged to Guy of Warwick, criticism declares the "porridge-pot" to be a fourteenth century garrison cooking-pot; "Fair Phyllis's slippers" to be stirrups of Henry VI.'s date, and the rest of the armour for horse and hero a jumble of all dates and styles. The tradition that the sword is Guy's is older than Henry VIII., when one Hoggeson was paid 2d. a day to guard it. By torchlight in this hall on a night in June 1312, Piers Gaveston, the friend of Edward II., was tried for his life by the Barons. Guy de Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, whom Gaveston had nicknamed "the Black Dog," brought him here from Scarborough, where Henry, Earl of Lancaster, had besieged and taken him. They condemned him to death, and executed him the next morning on Blacklow Hill (p. 84). The interiors of Cæsar's Tower and of Guy's Tower are not shown. The gateway between the Bear Tower and the Clarence Tower leads into the gardens, on the L. of which stands a green-house, containing the Tivoli, or Warwick vase, dug out of the ruins of Hadrian's Villa near Tivoli, and sent to England by

Sir William Hamilton, the husband of Nelson's friend. It is an admirable piece of work in a decadent style of

Greek sculpture, dating from about 300 B.C.

Tradition puts a Roman fortress at Warwick: the legendary Guy married Felicia or Phyllis, daughter of Rohand, first Earl of Warwick, about the end of the ninth century: early in the tenth century Ethelfleda built her keep; but in spite of its antiquity, the history of the castle has not been an eventful one. The most memorable events are these: 1264, the castle surprised by the Barons fighting against Henry III. in the Barons' War; the Earl, William Mauduit, carried prisoner to Kenilworth and the walls razed; 1266, Henry III. after the battle of Evesham (p. 125) made it his headquarters while besieging Kenilworth (p. 93); 1312, trial of Gaveston; 1469, Edward IV. brought here a prisoner by "the King-maker," Richard Nevil, Earl of Warwick; 1642, besieged by the Royalist army, but not taken. Elizabeth, James I., William III., George IV. and Victoria are among the sovereigns who have stayed here.

From the Castle Lodge it is worth while to walk down Mill Street to see Cæsar's Tower from below, the ruins of the old mill and the blocks which mark the site of the ancient bridge. From opposite the Lodge St Nicholas Church Street leads into St John Street, on the R. of which stands St John's Hospital, an early seventeenth century stone house on the site of a house of rest for strangers and travellers founded in Henry II.'s reign by one of the de Newburgh earls of Warwick. The iron gates and rails are nearly as old as the house. The interior is not shown.

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XII

A WALK NEAR WARWICK

GUY'S CLIFF, BLACKLOW HILL, LEEK WOOTTON, GOOD REST. WEDGNOCK

Guy's Cliff lies i m. N. of Warwick on the R. of the Kenilworth road. It is worth while going past the present entrance to the grounds in order to see the house through the avenue of Scotch firs, planted two hundred years ago.

(The house is only shown in the absence of the family, usually in the late summer and early autumn.)

Its chief beauty lies in its situation, which has been praised since the days of Leland in the sixteenth century. On the R. bank of the river rises a cliff on which the house is built, with woods behind it. The best point of view is from the bridge over the millstream on the other side of the river. The house contains a good collection of pictures, and the views from the windows are charming. On the E. side is the Chapel, built in the reign of Henry VI., but much restored since. It contains a mutilated statue of a man in armour, probably a century older than the Chapel and said to represent Guy of Warwick. The excavation in the cliff known as Guy's Cave is undoubtedly an ancient hermitage, possibly in use so long ago as the sixth century A.D. In 1870 an inscription in Runic letters and a Saxon dialect, judged to date from the tenth century, was discovered on the wall opposite the river some 10 feet from the floor. The translation runs as follows: "Cast out, Thou Christ, from thy servant this burthen Guhthi." Guhthi (A.S. = battle) is considered to have been the name of the hermit of the time, possibly an old warrior; and on this slight foundation may rest the association of the spot with Guy, the legendary ninth century hero of Warwick.

This is his story. He was the son of the steward of Rohand, the Saxon Earl of Warwick, whose daughter Felicia or Phyllis he loved. In order to be worthy of her he set out in search of adventure, and found plenty. In Normandy, Spain, Almayne, and Lombardy he was the champion of every tournament; returning home he killed a mighty Dun Cow that ravaged Dunsmore Heath: in Constantinople he slew Coldran the giant. and was offered the daughter of the Emperor Ernis in marriage; but, still faithful to Phyllis, he came home a second time, killed the dragon of Northumberland and brought his head to King Athelstan at Lincoln. Then at last he married Phyllis, but after forty days (the story has a dash of monkish humour) set off on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. He reached England a third time to find Athelstan besieged at Winchester by the Danish king, Anlaf. Still in his palmer's weeds he fought all day a single combat with the Giant Colebran; slew him at nightfall and offered up his axe in Winchester Cathedral. Then he retired to the cave under the cliff, and presented himself daily among the thirteen poor men to whom Phyllis gave alms. It was not till he lay dying that he sent her a ring which should prove him to be her husband. The story, which is allied to French and Danish legends, appears to be an English work of the thirteenth century, very probably built on a foundation of that tradition which is as old as man.

The spring between the avenue and the river, arched over and protected by iron gates, has not long been known as "Guy's Well."

Dubritius, a Saxon, afterwards Archbishop of Wales, built an oratory here early in the sixth century A.D. Richard de Beauchamp, the great Earl of Warwick (p. 77) left funds by will for the rebuilding of the chapel and the priest's residence. John Rous, the

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antiquary, was priest here in the fifteenth century. After the Dissolution, the property passed into lay hands, coming in the eighteenth century to the Greatheeds. In 1772, Sarah Kemble, aged seventeen, was sent here by her father, Roger, as companion to Lady Mary Greatheed, in order that she might, if possible, get over her love for Mr Siddons, a member of his company. The experiment failed, and in 1773 the great actress was married at Coventry. She frequently stayed here later. The present owner is Lord Algernon Percy. On the L. bank of the river, a famous beauty-spot, there has been a mill since long before the Conquest. Half-a-mile further on the L. stands Blacklow Hill (keys of the gate kept at the cottage opposite) where stands among the trees an obelisk commemorating the execution of Piers Gaveston on this spot on June 19th, 1312. The date on the obelisk (July 1) is perhaps the solitary instance of a trivial mistake by the great scholar, Dr Parr.

I m. from Blacklow Hill comes Leek Wootton The first turning L. in the village, then R., leads to a cross road. The turning R. is the way to the kennels of the N. Warwickshire hounds: that L. to a farm built near the moat which surrounded Good Rest Manor House; so called it is said, from the custom of the Countesses of Warwick to retire there "to avoid much concourse of people when they were near the time of child-birth." From the farm a path runs directly to the N.E. corner of the remnant of Wedgnock Old Park, made by Henry de Newburgh, Earl of Warwick, soon after the Conquest in imitation of Henry I.'s Park at Woodstock, which is the oldest in England. From here a road leads in 2 m. to the N. end of Warwick.

XIII

LEAMINGTON

A TRAM runs about every half-hour from Warwick High Street to the Avenue (L. & N.W.R.) station, Leamington: fare 3d.: distance about 3 m. For bicyclists the better way is to take the Banbury road, and turn L. just beyond the bridge over the Avon, which was built by an Earl of Warwick in the eighteenth century, to replace the old one under the castle. 2 m. good and level going lead to the G.W.R. station at Leamington.

Leamington (leamh, Sax. = elm), though containing little of interest, is a better place to stay at than Warwick. The hotels and lodgings are comfortable and the shops good: the theatre (in Regent Grove), and the bands in the public gardens or under cover in

winter help to pass the evenings.

The town, being new, is regular in plan, sloping gently to the river Leam, S. of which is the older and less fashionable part. The Parade is the main street. On the R. going N. lie the Parish Church, the Post-Office, the new Town Hall and the Jephson Gardens (admission, free on F. Sat. and Sun.: 1d. on M. Tu. W. and Th.), which are bounded on the S. by the river and have at the E. a maze (admission 2d.). On the L. of the Parade lie the Pump Room, where all kinds of baths can be had, its gardens (free) and, W. of them, on the S. of the river, the Victoria Park. good Free Library, now housed in the Town Hall, will shortly occupy a new building in the Avenue road. The Swimming-bath behind the Pump Room is boarded over in winter and made into a concert room. The Parish Church, dating from 1844 and onwards, has little architectural merit, though money has been freely spent. The additions now being made do nothing to increase its chance of symmetry. In the churchyard is the tomb of William Abbotts, "Founder of the Spawater baths in 1786." Close by the church is the Old Well, mentioned by Camden in the sixteenth century. Another antiquarian, writing in 1786, says that the waters "are used for no other Benefit but by the poorer Inhabitants to season their Bread." The other springs now running are that which supplies the Pump Room, where the water (which contains a large amount of chloride of calcium and is recommended for gout) may be had at 1d. a glass, and that which flows at the tap under the railway bridge at the bottom of Bath Street. The spring which originally made the fortune of Leamington rose in Bath Street, where the Bath Hotel was built by William Abbotts to receive the rush of visitors. The spring is now built over. George IV., then Prince Regent, was present at the opening of the Regent Hotel; and Queen, then Princess, Victoria, staved there in 1830.

Leamington in the eighteenth century was a village: the waters, ingeniously pushed by Dr Jephson, made it fashionable. It is fashionable no longer, but between the waters and its excellence as a hunting centre, it

continues to be prosperous.

Boats may be had at the Adelaide Bridge; in the Victoria Park, and (when the new bridge is finished) opposite the end of Leam Terrace.

Carriages at all the hotels: in the summer two coaches leave daily from the Town Hall for Stratford, etc.

XIV

WALKS NEAR LEAMINGTON

LILLINGTON, CUBBINGTON and OFFCHURCH

FROM the end of Holly Walk a footpath runs to the L. over the Campion Hills, at the top of which is a pretty "Lovers' Walk," commanding good views. At about 1/2 m. it crosses the path to Cubbington. Lillington

church has two Norman doorways and a Dec. nave. A road runs from here to Cubbington, but the pleasanter way is to return to the crossing of the paths and take that to the L., which enters the village past a square brick dovecot, once the summer-house of the Greswold mansion, now pulled down. Cubbington church has Norman work, but is mainly Dec. In the chancel are ogee-headed triple sedilia. The road from here to Offchurch is the old Welsh road, formerly an unmetalled track along which the droves of cattle came from Wales. The church is Norman and E.E., and lies at the top of a hill surrounded by fine yew-trees. Half-way down the hill back towards Lillington, a public foot-path strikes L. for Leamington across the park of Offchurch Bury. The long stone house is clearly visible. It is said to stand on the site of the palace of Offa, king of Mercia in the eighth century; and three stones in the grounds have been declared to be remnants of that building. The path crosses the Leam by a foot-bridge and runs into the end of Holly Walk.

RADFORD SEMELE, WHITNASH and BISHOP'S TACHBROOK

Radford Semele (once the seat of the Simelys) lies 1½ m. out along the Southam road. The restored church retains its Norman S. wall and door and a carved pulpit. The stocks stand close by, and there is a restored cross in the churchyard. From here a footpath leads past the farm to Whitnash. The church (key at sexton's opposite) has a little herring-bone (Saxon) masonry in the S. porch. The rest is mainly restored Dec. On the N. wall of the chancel is a monument to Nicholas Greenhill, 1630, first headmaster of Rugby and rector here. The verses on the small brass plate below, put up in 1689, are quaint, beginning:

"This Greenhill Periwig'd with Snow Was leavild in the Spring," etc.

There are other brasses here and an old elm outside the church.

From the further end of the village a path runs to Bishop's Tachbrook, meeting the road close to Tachbrook Mallory, where there are some huge old oaks. The first house beyond on the L. is Chapel Hill; part of the wall on the N. of which is the remnant of a chapel, built temp. Edward III. by John Malory as a chantry for his dead wife. The church (key at vicarage opposite) is chiefly interesting for its monuments to the Wagstaffe family, that of John Rous, 1670, and the plain mural monument to W. S. Landor on the S. wall. His mother's family, the Savages, lived here, and have vaults in the church. The E. window was filled with stained glass in memory of the widow of Charles Kingsley.

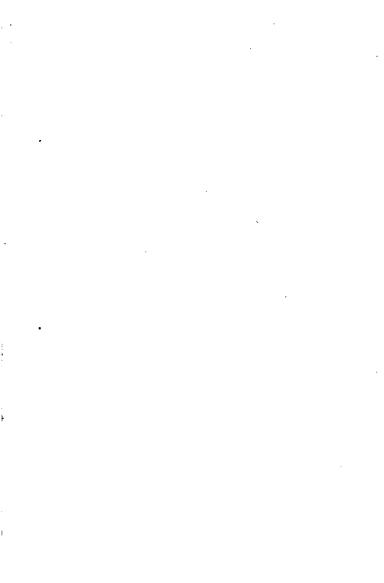
Leamington is 3 m. by road.

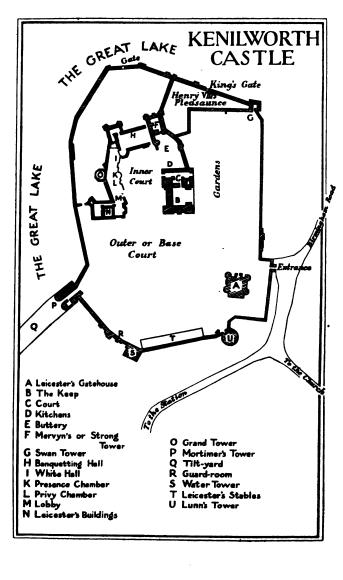
xv

LEAMINGTON

KENILWORTH, STONELEIGH (BAGINTON), ASHOW

RIGHT of the Kenilworth road on the outskirts of Leamington stands a tree, railed round, which is said to mark the centre of England from E. to W. The road crosses the Avon about 3 m. out by Chesford Bridge. There seems to have been a bridge here in British times: the present structure is Georgian, recently enlarged. The S. end of Kenilworth lies $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. further. In the straggling town the first object of interest is the King's Arms Hotel on the R., where Sir Walter Scott stayed when he came in 1820 to study the Castle for the purposes of his novel. The room he slept in still contains some things he used. A little further the main street turns sharply R. and then L. to the end





of the road running L. again to the Church and the Castle. The church (open 10-5) is cruciform, with a Lady Chapel on the S., and has a splendid Norman W. door, brought here from the ruined Priory. The tower is capped with an oak belfry and spire. Other noticeable things are the "squint" by the chancel arch, the "leper window" in the S. wall W. of the transept, the curious tracery of the windows in the N. aisle and the clustered octagonal pillars of the arcades. In 1645 the Parliamentary army was lodged in this church. S.W. of the church lie the remains of the Priory, founded early in the twelfth century for Augustinians by Geoffrey de The foundations of the church and other parts have been excavated and exposed, and indicate a large and handsome building. The gate-house stands at the W. end of the churchyard (the sexton will unlock the iron gate in the railings) with the Porter's Lodge, now full of relics, on the E. side. The handsome sedilia from the priory church have been built into the N. wall. The barn in the field below was the Granary of the priors.

From the church the road runs straight on to the The visitors' entrance (admission 6d.) lies just beyond Leicester's Gate-house, now a private residence, and not shown. This was built by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, Elizabeth's favourite, about 1572, as the principal entrance, in place of one built by John of Gaunt a little further W. (Note: the points of the compass may be remembered from the visitors' entrance, which lies on the N. of the castle; in the plan the W. is at the top of the page.) The archway was filled up and made into rooms by the Parliamentary officers whom Cromwell placed here: they also added the gabled parts and the porch on the W. (to be seen over the garden gate), which is said to have come from a lobby built by Robert, Leicester's unfortunate son by his second wife, Lady Sheffield. Beyond the gatehouse lies the Base Court, on the R, of which is the

huge tower known as Cæsar's Tower, really a Norman keep built in 1120 by Geoffrey de Clinton (founder of the priory), chamberlain to Henry I. and first Norman owner of the lordship. The walls at the base are 14 ft. thick; and at the angles were four projecting turrets; on the S. side came the portcullis, the groove of which can still be seen, and the entrance to the Inner Court. Leicester gutted this tower and turned the interior into habitable rooms, put wide stone-mullioned windows in place of the Norman windows, and fixed a clock with two faces on the S.E. turret. The subsidiary tower, or Norman Court, on the S. of the keep, he treated much in the same way: a date, 1570, was visible near the S. door a few years ago. Behind the Norman court come the kitchens and buttery, originally built by G. de Clinton, and extended by John of Gaunt about 1302. The fire-places and ovens still remain.

W. of the kitchens stands the Strong Tower, sometimes called Mervyn's Tower, from the fact or legend that Arthur ap Mervyn, a Welsh chieftain, was imprisoned and murdered here. This was built by John of Gaunt for the prison of the castle. From the top a good idea can be gained of the size of the Great Lake, which covered III acres, lying all along the S. side of the castle from the dam at the S.E. corner, and stretching away ½ m. to the W. This, too, is the place from which to see the site of the garden on the N. of the castle. Beneath the keep in Leicester's time lay a terrace: a marble fountain stood in the middle of the garden, while against the N. wall was an aviary. The space on the W., between the Strong Tower and the outer wall, was occupied by Henry VIII.'s Pleasance. The old Pleasance en Marys (i.e. the pleasure-house in the marsh), built beyond the walls by Henry V. about 1414, was reached by a bridge just under the Swan Tower at the N.W. angle of the outer wall. The Swan Tower was built by Henry de Clinton, grandson of Geoffrey, early in the thirteenth

century. Next to the Strong Tower comes the Banqueting Hall, built by John of Gaunt, and the finest piece of architecture (Perp.) in the castle. The hall was supported on the vaulted roof of the cellar below, which sprang from ten pillars. The entrance to the hall was by a staircase starting from the S.W. angle of the keep, and running up to a corridor, elaborately vaulted and carved. At the S.E. end of the hall is an oriel of the same date overlooking the Inner Court, and opposite the oriel a low tower with turrets at the outer corners. The dais lay between these two. It is difficult now to imagine the place as it was when Leicester entertained Elizabeth; sumptuously furnished, a room and not a ruin. S. of the banqueting hall and oriel come the White Hall and the Presence Chamber, with the Grand Tower behind them, and the Privy Chamber, all built by John of Gaunt, and now destroyed. The Lobby, E. of the privy chamber, is the beginning of Leicester's Buildings, which stretch away to the rampart on the Here it was that Elizabeth stayed on her visit in 1575. N. of Leicester's buildings, on a space now vacant, stood Henry VIII.'s Lodgings, built by that king in 1520, which stretched away to the portcullis near the Norman keep, and completed the circuit of buildings round the Inner Court.

Between the ramparts of the Inner Court and the outer walls of the castle lay the Moat, and on the far side of it, against the outer walls, wooden sheds for the soldiers. The fire-places can still be seen. At the S.E. corner of the Base Court stands Mortimer's Tower, built by Henry de Clinton early in the thirteenth century. Through the gateway under this tower Elizabeth entered in 1575, coming along the top of the Dam, the great bank of earth that runs to the S.E., and was made, temp. Henry III., to dam the Great Lake. The top was used as a tilt-yard, and the fragments beyond are those of the Gallery Tower,

built by Henry de Clinton, and rebuilt by Leicester. In the time of the Commonwealth a cutting was driven right through the dam to drain the great lake, and so rob the place of one of its means of defence. The Water Tower on the E. of the Base Court also dates from Henry III.'s reign. Next to it are Leicester's Stables, new-built by Leicester in brick and timber on the old foundations; and beyond the stables Lunn's Tower, built by Geoffrey de Clinton in Henry II.'s reign. The entrance was blown up in the Civil War. The Water and Queen's Towers and the stables are not shown to the public.

Of buildings that have entirely disappeared there may be mentioned the old Great Hall near the centre of the Inner Court, and the chapel near the site of Henry VIII.'s lodgings, both built by Geoffrey de Clinton, and the chapel in the Base Court built by

John of Gaunt.

Kenilworth Castle consisted of an outer wall with towers, encircling a space of which the eastern half was an open court, the western a complete circuit of defensive and residential buildings of various dates, surrounded by a moat, and containing a small inner court, while gardens lay between them and the outer wall on the N. side. The size of the castle was enormous: its position in the centre of England, at the junction of the London roads from N.W. and N.E., made it an important military post, and its defences were formidable. Almost the whole of the outer walls was surrounded by water, and the inner fortifications were yet stronger than the outer.

Naturally, the place has seen a good deal of history. Henry III., when a boy, was placed here for safety from the Barons by his father, John, and later in life was imprisoned here by his enemies. Simon de Montfort was governor here, and his wife, Henry III.'s sister, was made tenant for life. During the Barons' War, in which Simon led the Barons against

the Crown, his son, who had raised levies for his father, was surprised outside the castle by Prince Edward and defeated, only just escaping across the lake into the castle in his shirt. After Simon's total defeat and death at Evesham in 1265 (p. 125), Kenilworth held out against its besiegers till an outbreak of plague compelled its surrender at the end of 1266. During the siege the king called a convention, which sat here and passed the conciliatory measure known as the dictum de Kenilworth, allowing rebels to redeem their lands, but the besieged refused to accept the terms. In 1322 Edward II. seized the castle and visited it often: the last time against his will, when in 1327 he was brought here a prisoner by Henry of Lancaster, whose brother he had put to death. In the old Great Hall the Barons forced him to sign his abdication, Sir Thomas Blount, Steward of the Household, breaking his staff of office, as if the king were indeed dead. In 1563 Elizabeth gave the castle to her favourite, Leicester; and in 1575 occurred the visit which owes its modern celebrity to Sir Walter Scott's novel. The display was prodigious, and it is not improbable that Shakespeare, then aged eleven, came over with other Stratford boys to see the fun. Some commentators find Oberon's speech to Puck (Midsummer Night's Dream, ii. 2) a deliberate reference to the pageants presented before the queen on this occasion, and the intrigues that underlay Leicester closed his life in 1588, and not long afterwards his son, Sir Robert Dudley, was cheated out of Kenilworth by James I. Charles I. slept here on the way from Shrewsbury to London on Oct. 19 and 20, 1642, being at Edgehill on the 23rd (p. 69). Cromwell divided the lands among his officers, who dismantled the towers and filled up the moat. At the Restoration the castle came into the hands of Lord Hyde, through whom it descended to its present owner, the Earl of Clarendon.

The best road to Stoneleigh leaves Kenilworth by a turning R. a little N. of the church. I m. out a turning L. and then R. leads to the lodge gates of Stoneleigh Abbey.

(Shown in the absence of Lord and Lady Leigh, i.e. generally in the summer. The park is open to the public on all weekdays up to sunset, provided they keep to the roads and out of the gardens.)

Just before reaching the gate-house, a path on the L. leads in a few yards to an enormous oak-tree. Under this, or another of like size in the deer park,

tradition sets Shakespeare musing.

William the Conqueror held Stoneleigh and pastured 2000 hogs in the forest. In 1154 the Cistercian monks built their abbey under the auspices of Henry II., and held it till the Dissolution. Soon afterwards it came into the hands of Sir Thomas Leigh, Lord Mayor of London in 1558, whose descendants still hold it. The Gate-house dates from 1349 and is late Dec. Beneath the gate is a bench made out of old stocks. The E. part of the building (i.e. the R. looking at it from the inner side) was the hospitium, where any traveller might call for food and lodging.

Of the Cistercian abbey itself scarcely anything remains to be seen from outside. The W. part is early eighteenth century: the gabled E. part dates from James I. On the N. side, nearly hidden in ivy, are the Norman arches which stood between the nave and S. aisle of the Convent Church. The nave lay along the N. front of the house, with the tower opposite the present N.E. corner, and the chancel arch about level with the E. wall. The present porch, therefore, would be in the nave, and the immediate N. portion of the house would be on the site of the S. aisle of the church. On the site of what is now the E. front lay the chapter-house and the abbot's lodgings, while the S., on the other side of the quadrangle which can be seen from within, was occupied by the

refectory. The side entrance at the N.E. corner, at the end of the modern cloisters leading to the stables, is a Norman doorway which lay between the chapter-house and the S. transept of the church, now the house-keeper's room; while the corridor on the other side of the N. entrance was the old S. aisle. house-keeper's room is hung with stamped leather brought from Kenilworth Castle. The corridor is panelled with oak from the abbey and contains an inlaid fire-place of the date of Charles I. The windows are full of stained glass with the Leigh arms. At the end of the corridor comes the staircase leading up to the entrance hall of the modern residence. window here is the best place from which to see the quadrangle, the old burying-ground of the monks. In the opposite corner on the R. is a fine Norman doorway. An old chest of maple wood from the abbey, decorated in a way which strongly suggests the "pokerwork" of the present day, stands near the window. From the entrance hall opens a suite of rooms containing many good pictures and some costly furniture. In the Silk Drawing-room is a marqueterie table inlaid with scenes in the life of Columbus: the walls and ceiling of the Saloon are decorated in alto relievo by Cipriani, the subjects being the labours and apotheosis of Hercules. In the Breakfast-room is a Crucifixion by Dürer. The Chapel has an altar-piece of white marble enclosing a copy from Michelangelo. The Norman Crypt lies on the S.E. side beyond the kitchen, and was lately used as a brewery: it still contains a piscina. The Monks' Lodgings which stood over it are now used as men-servants' rooms. Charles I. stayed here in August 1642, when the gates of Coventry were shut on him and his army. In the following year he ennobled his host. Queen Victoria was a guest here in 1858.

One mile N. of the abbey at the edge of the park stands Motslow Hill, where the Manor Court was held

in ancient days. A castle formerly stood on this hill. The road from the abbey to Stoneleigh village crosses the Avon by the Stare bridge, built by the monks in the fourteenth century, and runs L. along the edge of the further park. These parks with their deer and timber are the chief beauty of the place. At the entrance to the village the road crosses the Sowe by a modern bridge. Stoneleigh Church (key at the P.O.) contains Norman and late Dec. work. The bases of the chancel arch, itself very elaborate Norman, are possibly Saxon. The Norman chancel has an arcade on the S. side: probably the N. side had one too, removed to make room for the enormous tomb of Alicia, Duchess Dudley, and her daughter. The Duchess, a Leigh by birth, was the wife of Leicester's eldest son, Sir Robert Dudley, and her title was given her for life by Charles I. S. of the chancel is a recess, containing the tomb of the late Lord Leigh. Against the N. wall of the chancel is the recumbent effigy of a priest. The font is possibly Saxon. Outside, on the S. wall, is a quaint inscription to Humphrey Howe, once porter at Stoneleigh gates. On the N. side of the churchyard is the recumbent, almost obliterated, effigy of a woman, called by the sexton "Lady Mustard" (probably "Motslow"). At one time she could be seen to be holding a child, and the legend is that in the castle upon Motslow Hill lived a lady who killed herself and her unborn child on hearing that her husband had fallen in battle.

It is possible to extend the day's tour and see a very pretty place, by going on to Baginton, taking the first turning L. after getting clear of Stoneleigh. Baginton church is E.E., with lancet windows. An unusual arcade of three double arches separates the chancel from the nave, and between the nave and the N. aisle there is also a double row of arches with a very narrow

passage between. The church contains some good old wood-work. Between nave and chancel is a good enamelled brass to Bagot, 1400. On the river bank W. of the church are the mounds which mark the site of Baginton Castle, the seat of the Bagots. Here Henry, Duke of Hereford, John of Gaunt's son and afterwards Henry IV., spent the night in September 1397 before riding into Coventry to meet his adversary, Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, in single combat. Richard II. suddenly prevented the fight and banished both. (King Richard II. i. 3.) Close to the church stands Baginton Hall, gutted by fire in 1889 and never restored. From Baginton a good road runs at 2 m. past the end of Stoneleigh Park over Cloud Bridge, under which is a swinging deer-fence; and through Cubbington to Leamington.

From Stoneleigh village the return to Leamington might be made by passing the lodge gates of the abbey and turning aside to the L. to see Ashow, where the church (key at the P.O.) has Norman and E.E. work and a good cross in the churchyard. From Ashow back to the Stoneleigh road, which joins the Kenilworth and Leamington road about 1 m. further.

XVI

LEAMINGTON OR WARWICK

To HASELEY, WROXALL, BADDESLEY CLINTON, TEMPLE BALSALL, KNOWLE, PACKWOOD, ROWINGTON

THE Birmingham road from Warwick reaches in 3 m. Hatton church, just beyond which is a turning R. to Haseley. The church (keys at the vicarage close by) dates mainly from the early sixteenth century, and

has square-headed windows. The S. door is Norman. In a recess, gabled outside, is the altar tomb of Clement Throckmorton (ob. 1573) with inlaid brass figures of himself, his wife and thirteen children. At the bottom of the steep hill beyond the church there were formerly a pool, a stream and a mill; but the Warwick waterworks have drained the field by their underground reservoir here. In this pool, in the thirteenth century, one of the de Cherlecotes, then lords of the manor, was drowned by three of his servants. Local tradition has it that one of them was a black man. On the R., just beyond the field, are the gates of Haseley Manor. The first turning L. from the drive runs to the stable yard, adjoining which is the old Manor House, now divided into three dwellings for the servants of the new house higher up the grounds. The porch, in which is the date 1561, the initials C. T. and K. T. for Clement Throckmorton and his wife, and two branches with six and seven shoots indicating respectively their six sons and seven daughters, leads into the Great Hall where is a big open fireplace and the Throckmorton arms. To reach Wroxall from Haseley it is best to return to the main road. At $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. the lodge-gates of Wroxall Abbey lie on the L. The present house at the end of the long avenue dates from 1864, but in the grounds on the L. of the drive are ruins of the Abbey, founded in 1141 by Sir Hugh de Hatton, who, praying for deliverance from his captivity in a Saracen dungeon. was comforted by a vision of St Lawrence. The Saint promised release and commanded the foundation of a Benedictine Nunnery. The knight vowed obedience and was instantly transported in his chains to this place.

(The key of the church and permission to see the ruins may be obtained by applying at the side door of the house, R. of the front door.)

The ruins comprise the Chapter-house, which has a fine cinquefoil arch over the door, and close by it the Refectory. Fine cedar trees stand near. The red garden walls on the opposite side of the drive are attributed to Sir Christopher Wren, who bought the place in 1713. The church stands in the grounds, and formerly composed the N. side of the abbey. Early in the fourteenth century it was rebuilt, and it contains also some late Perp. work. There is no chancel arch, the intended chancel probably having never been built. On the N. side are some scraps of old glass. There are many tablets to the Wren family, an elaborate monument to Lady Anne Burgoyne, 1693, and on the S. wall the brass figure of a woman. One Isabella Shakespeare was Prioress here in Henry VII.'s reign; and in 1534 Richard Shakespeare was bailiff to the nuns. One theory sees in him William Shake-

speare's grandfather or great-grandfather.

Close to Wroxall lies one of the most interesting houses in the district, the fifteenth century moated Manor House of Baddesley Clinton. Visitors are not now permitted to see the house, but it is almost worth while to go back 1 m. from the gates of Wroxall towards Warwick, and turn R., to get a glimpse of the outside of it and see the church (keys at the keeper's cottage in the field on the opposite side of the road); an E.E. building, enlarged at the end of the fifteenth century by Nicholas Brome, lord of the manor, who also built the tower here and at Packwood (p. 101) in expiation of his crime in killing a priest whom he suspected of too close a familiarity with his wife. An inscription under the tower gives his death in 1517. The chancel was rebuilt by Edward Ferrers in 1634. On the S. wall is the tomb of Sir Edward Ferrers, 1535, and his wife, the heiress of Nicholas Brome. In the chancel floor is a tombstone to twelve generations of Ferrers, 1535-1830, among them the antiquary Henry, 1633. The Jacobean screen is good, and the church is charmingly situated amidst trees.

From the church a path leads down to the Manor

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House. The moat goes all round and is spanned by a brick bridge before the tower, under which is the entrance-arch. In the gateway are loop-holes for the defence of the drawbridge, long removed, and the huge oak door is as old as the house. Of the original four sides, one has been pulled down, but the view of the courtyard through the gate is unspoiled. The chimneys are exceptionally fine. Of the interior, Mr Ribton Turner describes among other rooms an oak-panelled hall with windows glazed with coats of arms, a state bedroom with an oak chimney-piece, a sacristy, from which a secret passage runs under the moat, and a chapel. But whoever has seen the front and looked through into the courtyard, which is full of flowers, will not regret his visit. 21 m. beyond the church the road from Wroxall forks: on the L. reaching in 2 m. the S. end of the grounds of Packwood House (below): on the R. passing the Convent and rejoining the Birmingham road. The next turning R., then L., comes in 3 m. to Temple Balsall. It is best to go on through the village, bearing R., in order to reach the footpath that leads to the church past the Hospital, a red brick building with two long wings, founded under the will of Lady Katharine Leveson, grand-daughter of Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester.

The Dec. church (open, 10 to dusk) is one of the finest in the district. There are no aisles and no chancel-arch, but the level of the floor rises gradually towards the altar. The tracery of the windows is excellent and full of variety, the E. window being exceptionally fine. The sedilia and piscina in the chancel, and the corbels carved into the heads of Knights Templars may also be noticed. Outside, the octagonal (restored) turret at the S.W. and the indications on W. and S. of the buildings which formerly were connected with the church, are interesting. The building was the work of the Knights Templars, who acquired the Manor by gift in the reign of Henry III.,

and what now is a row of cottages opposite the W. end was once their Great Hall. In 1486 a Thomas Shake-speare lived here, from whom one theory traces the

descent of William Shakespeare.

From Temple Balsall a road runs to **Knowle** in 2 m., where the church (for admission apply at the vicarage) has a fine Perp. chancel screen and a sixteenth century altar with bulging legs. The timbered house at the W. end was formerly the College of the chantry priests. The first turning R. from the road past the church leads in $\frac{1}{2}$ m. to **Grimshaw Hall**, a good specimen of a sixteenth century timbered house. The interior is not shown, but the outside is worth seeing, with its elaborate wood-work and carving, overhanging upper windows, and clustered brick chimneys. The porch has an upper storey, and near it stands an old

mounting-block.

From Knowle the second turning R. off the Birmingham road leads to Packwood. The church (key at the vicarage), which can only be reached across fields and is sometimes all but cut off by floods, is mainly Dec., with a hideous brick N. transept and a good fifteenth century S. porch. The tower was built by Nicholas Brome (p. 99). The register contains the following entry: "Mickel Johnsones of Lichfield and Sara ford maried June the 19th. 1706." These were Dr Johnson's parents. The farmhouse adjoining the church stands on the site of the old Manor House, and is surrounded by a moat. Aylesbury House, 1 m. W., is a red brick building, partly dating from Queen Anne. The chief attraction of Packwood is Packwood House, with its garden, which the owner (Mr Arton) allows visitors who present their cards to see. The road runs through the grounds, and the house lies on the R. The earliest part is said to date from Edward IV., but the whole has been coated with roughcast, and is not so effective as the eighteenth century domestic offices and stables. The formal

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garden lies at the back; brick steps at the far end lead up to a terrace; beyond the terrace are wrought-iron gates, opening on to an avenue of Portugal laurels flanked by yew bushes. At the end is a spiral ascending maze, cunningly arranged between broad box hedges. From the summit one view shows the house, the other looks down a long avenue to Stratford spire in the distance. The red brick walls, box hedges, and fine yews make a most sentimentally pretty place. Soon after crossing the canal the road divides, going (1) on the L. to Bushwood Hall, a farmhouse near the site of the older moated building where Robert Catesby, famous in the Gunpowder Plot, was born in 1573; (2) on the R. the road runs 3 m. to Rowington, where the church is interesting from its unique arrangement, the nave being interrupted by the tower and continued again E. of it. In front of the altar is an incised alabaster slab, with effigies of a man and woman in Elizabethan dress, but with no name.

Rowington is another of the claimants to be the original home of William Shakespeare's ancestors. A family of the name was settled there in Edward IV.'s reign, though their house cannot be identified, nor the pedigree reduced to anything more than a probability. The road from Rowington joins the Warwick and

Birmingham road at Hatton.

XVII

LEAMINGTON

WESTON-UNDER-WETHERLY, WAPPENBURY, EATHORPE, MARTON (BIRDINGBURY, LEAMINGTON HASTINGS, STOCKTON), LONG ITCHINGTON, SOUTHAM (NAPTON-ON-THE-HILL, SHUCKBURGH), UPTON.

THE road through Lillington runs in 4 m. to Westonunder-Wetherly. The church (keys at the smithy) has an E.E. N. aisle and a Perp. Chantry Chapel, containing the tomb of Sir Edward Saunders, Kt., Chief Justice of England (ob. 1573), and some interesting brasses. The church was used as a stable by the Parliamentary troops during the Civil War. The font is rare, an irregular octagon with concave sides; and the bench ends are well carved, no two being alike. Past Weston three turnings L.R. and R. lead to Wappenbury, where the church (keys at the farmhouse behind) was rebuilt in 1886, except the tower, which projects into the S.W. corner of the nave. Beneath it are some old stone coffin-lids. On the S. wall are monuments of the Viner family of "Ethorp." Near the church stands a Catholic chapel, built by Lord Clifford in 1849; the priest's house stands on the site of a much older chapel. Behind the church are traces of earthworks.

A pretty road through the grounds of Eathorpe Park crosses the Fosseway and runs to **Marton**. The brick tower prominent on the N. is the Princethorpe

Convent (p. 111).

Marton is chiefly interesting for its bridge over the Leam, of which the best view is to be had from the churchyard. There was a bridge here before the days of Henry III., and in the reign of Henry V. John Middliton, a native of Marton and a merchant in London, built the present bridge and freed it of tolls.

Through Marton runs the Coventry, Southam, and Banbury Road, which gives good going with some climbing to Southam through Long Itchington, where the church contains a rare fourteenth century wooden screen, a brass to Bosworth, 1675, and some old stone coffins. This was the native place of St Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester (p. 28), who sided with the Normans, and was the last of the Saxon bishops to keep his see. In 1572 Elizabeth passed through on her way to Kenilworth, and dined at the gabled house on the green; in 1575 she was here again. On the R. of the road to Southam lies Bascote Heath, where on the 23rd of

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August 1641 there was a skirmish between the Royal and Parliamentary troops.

A longer excursion may be made by going on from Marton to Birdingbury, where the road commands on the L. a charming view of the new church lying low between the old Vicarage and the Hall with its fine red brick stables. Another mile reaches Leamington Hastings, where the church stands among fine trees, and contains some good Dec. work, notably the N. door. There is Jacobean wood-work in the N. aisle. On the N. wall of the chancel is the mural monument, including the bust in official robes, of Sir Thomas Trevor, Baron of the King's Exchequer, 1665; opposite is that of his son, Sir Thomas Trevor, Bart., 1676, with busts of himself and his wife. Helmets, gauntlets, and swords hang by each.

Behind the church is the Manor House (not shown) approached from the churchyard through a Perp. doorway. The old house has been almost entirely rebuilt.

From Leamington Hastings the first turning leads in 3 m. to Stockton, which lives on its great lime and cement works, whence came the concrete for the Thames Embankment. The bones of an ichthyosaurus were discovered in the quarries here. Two m. beyond Stockton the road joins the Coventry and Banbury road, and runs in 21 m. to Southam, a small country town (3 King Henry VI. v. 1). The church (key at the sexton's over the bridge on the Leamington road) lies high, and is handsome. The tower and broach spire date from 1240; the rest is principally Dec. with a Perp. clerestory, and a chancel rebuilt in 1854. The roof is fifteenth century, and good. At the far end of the field below the W. end of the church a path across the fields runs to Holy Well, a perpetual spring which pours from the mouths of three carved heads into three troughs. It is evident that there was

at one time more stone-work. One field further is a picturesque old mill, which lies just behind the grounds of Stoneythorpe, a fifteenth century house in a park full of good timber. Opposite the E. end of the church is an old gabled house with carved barge-boards, formerly an inn. Here Charles I. slept on 21st October 1642, two nights before the battle of Edgehill.

The Welsh road runs through Southam.

E. of Southam on the Daventry road comes Naptonon-the-Hill (one of the few real hills in the district), which has a Norman and E.E. church right at the The view from the churchyard is very wide, embracing, it is said, eleven counties, and the situation adds effect to the church. Beyond Napton comes Lower Shuckburgh, which has a new church; near it stand an enormous tree-bole and the parish stocks. Beyond Lower Shuckburgh, 6 m. from Southam, comes Upper Shuckburgh, which contains Shuckburgh Park, a place of great beauty and some interest to antiquarians, but only to be seen by obtaining written permission from Lady Shuckburgh. From Southam the road to Leamington runs in 1½ m. through Ufton, to which there is a steep climb. The church is a steep climb. The church is a brass to Weddowes, rector, 1587. The fourteenth century cross in the churchyard was discovered and restored in recent years: the four faces have carvings of the Virgin Mary, the Crucifixion, St Chad and St Catherine. Ufton to Leamington, 31 m.

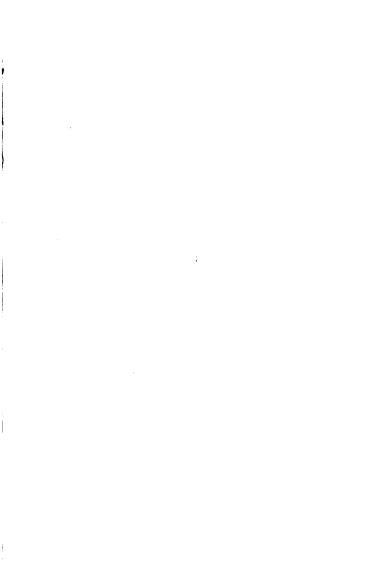
XVIII

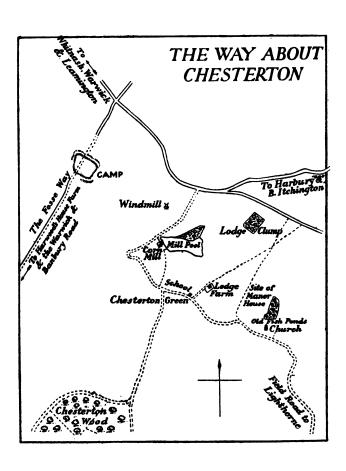
LEAMINGTON

CHESTERTON, CHADSHUNT, KINETON, COMP-TON VERNEY, WELLESBOURNE, MORETON MORRELL, NEWBOLD PACEY, OAKLEY WOOD

Note. —All the roads about Chesterton are rough, and bicycles are better left on the main road.

A TURNING L. just before reaching Tachbrook Mallory, crosses the Fosseway about 2 m. further. At the corner is a fine old Gospel Oak, marking the boundary of Chesterton and Harbury parishes, under which the parish priest used to read the Gospel on the yearly beating of the bounds. Across the Fosseway, here a mere field-road, about ½ m. R., lie the remains of a Roman camp, once surrounded by empty ditches, of which little trace remains. Half a mile further along the road a turning R. through a gate leads to the Windmill built by Sir Edward Peto in 1632 after a design by Inigo Jones. There is a fine view from the hill on which it stands. Below the windmill is the mill-house, also designed by Inigo Jones. This is one of the prettiest places in the district, with the sheet of water behind and the woods beyond. From the hill a path runs to Chesterton Green, from which there is a way to the church; or the hill may be climbed, back to the Itchington Road. A little further along, just beyond where the road bends sharply to the L., a path runs across the field close to Lodge Clump, where the lodge of the Peto mansion used to stand. Round the trees of the clump are a few earthworks, the remains of a fortification, possibly dating from the Civil War, possibly Roman in origin. The path runs down the





hill, past the site of the old Manor House, to the way from the green to the church. This Manor House, the seat of the Peto family, was erected in Edward IV.'s time, rebuilt by Inigo Jones in 1632, and pulled down by Lord Willoughby de Broke in 1802. Between the site and the church are the remnants of the old fishponds. The church (keys at the last cottage on the L. of the row close by) is Dec. and Perp. work, and has no chancel arch. It contains handsome tombs to Humphrey Peto, 1585, and his wife, and Sir Edward Peto, 1643, and his wife. On the N. side of the churchyard stands the brick gateway which opened into the Manor House grounds. From the church the most convenient way of leaving this inaccessible place is to go back to the Harbury and Itchington road.

At Gaydon the road crosses the Warwick and Banbury road; and at the Post-Office in Gaydon are kept the keys of the church at **Chadshunt**, $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. further on. Chadshunt House on the R. has a ghost who drives a coach down the avenue. The church has Norman work in it and sixteenth century Italian glass in the N. chapel, in which the patriarchs, etc. appear in coats and wigs. In the pew below the pulpit is a good brass to Askell, 1613.

At Kineton just over 1 m. further, the church was rebuilt, all but the good Perp. tower, in 1775. At Little Kineton, ½ m. S., is the house of Lord Willoughby de Broke, and the S. Warwickshire kennels. Tradition says that King John had a castle at Kineton; and a hill covered with fir trees, visible beyond the railway on the L. of the road to Stratford, is pointed out as its site, though probably in fact a Saxon earthwork. For King John's Lane, see p. 70. Compton Verney, also the property of Lord Willoughby de Broke, but generally let, lies 2½ m. N.W. of Kineton. The house is not shown as a rule, nor is the church which stands in the grounds; but a fine view of the W. front of the

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house and of the park with its ornamental waters and splendid cedar trees may be had from the road. The church, built in 1772 and scarcely ever used, contains some good stained glass and many monuments to the Verney family. The old chapel stood on the shore of the lake close to the S. side of the house.

After a steep climb a good road runs down 2 m. into Wellesbourne Hastings and Wellesbourne Mountford. 1 m. before reaching Wellesbourne Hastings, a rough road climbs R. to Moreton Morrell, a quaint village with E.E. church (keys at the sexton's next the inn) which contains a monument with kneeling effigies of Murden and his wife. In the vestry is an old chest with a huge and curious lock: the key has been bored by a mischievous boy of some remote date. to make a whistle or pop-gun. In the chest are pre-served a pewter paten and flagon and an old wooden pitch-pipe for giving the note to the choir. An Elizabethan silver chalice and paten are kept at the vicarage. In the Hall adjoining the churchyard Amy Robsart is said to have slept on her way to Kenilworth. Readers of Sir Walter Scott must remember that at the time of Elizabeth's visit in 1575 Amy Robsart had been dead for fifteen years, and her stay at Moreton Morrell was probably in 1558.

Across a field on the opposite side of the road to the church there were once two springs known as "eyewater" (a petrifying spring) and "leg-water." The oldest inhabitant can remember them being in vogue; but to-day they are hardly to be found. The turning L. outside the village leads to Newbold Pacey where the new church, incorporating some Norman fragments of the old, is prettily situated among farm-buildings. 1½ m. further lies Oakley Wood, in which there is said to be a Roman camp; but the wood is strictly preserved, there being a right of way only across the N. end. The track is shady and pleasant, and leads to the road through Bishop's Tachbrook to Leamington.

XIX

LEAMINGTON OR WARWICK

NORTON LINDSEY, CLAVERDON, PINLEY, PRESTON BAGOT, HENLEY-IN-ARDEN and BEAUDESERT, to BIRMINGHAM or STRATFORD

Norton Lindsey lies 4 m. from Warwick on a road that leaves the town by Friars Street. The church (keys at smithy) is mainly E.E., and contains an unusual font, the base being bigger than the bowl. From the churchyard there is a good view of Warwick. A turning R. past the windmill and then L. runs in 2 m. to Claverdon. The church (door of S. chapel open) rebuilt in 1887, contains a monument to "Thomas Spencer of Clareydon," 1586, whose daughter married the third Sir Thomas Lucy of Charlecote; and another to Frances Galton, a daughter of Erasmus Darwin. The second turning L. on the way back to Norton Lindsey leads up to the "Stone Building," the remains of the house built by Thomas Spencer. All that is left is a narrow two-storeyed block with good brick chimneys and square-headed windows; but the foundations are still to be traced in the field below, which also shows signs of the garden terraces. 1 m. beyond lies Pinley Green, where the turning sharp R. leads to Pinley **Priory**, which lies in a field on the R. The farmhouse now standing on the site of the Priory, founded in the reign of Henry I., still contains an old doorway on the further side of the house with carved heads on the hood-moulding. The house has evidently been built out of the ruins of the Priory.

From Pinley Green the high road to Preston Bagot runs back through Claverdon, but it is worth while

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turning R. at the clay-pit, about 1 m. further on, in order to cross the pretty gorse-grown Yarningale Common. A steep descent leads back on to the high road which enters Preston Bagot past the fifteenth or sixteenth century Manor House, of which the inside has been modernised. There are fine beams in the kitchen ceiling, and the farm-buildings are old. The church at the top of the hill (keys at Rectory) contains a good deal of restored Norman work, and a headless brass effigy of Elizabeth Randoll, 1637. Close by the S. door in the churchyard is a tombstone to John Shakespeare, 1840.

The road into Henley-in-Arden is a steep descent. There are several good timbered houses in the long street; that near the Market Cross by the post-office is said to be the old hall of the Guild. The church (keys at the vicarage: a charge of 6d. for ascending the tower) was originally the Chapel of the Guild, and in the parish of Wootton Wawen. In its present form it is Perp., with much carving on corbels and hoodmouldings, and no chancel arch. A lane between church and vicarage leads to Beaudesert (pron. often said to be "Belser"; locally as written, with the accent on the second syllable). The church (N. door open) is really worth seeing for the sake of its Norman chancel, chancel arch, and S. door. The chancel is askew, and set noticeably to the N. of the nave; the Perp. tower at the W. end is more to the S. than the N., and the effect is strange. The church lies beneath a hill, on which are mounds and trenches, traces of the castle built by Thurston de Montfort in the twelfth century. The view embraces Edgehill and Malvern. At Beaudesert Richard Jago (p. 42) was born. Henley lies 8 m. from Stratford on the Birmingham road.

$\mathbf{X}\mathbf{X}$

LEAMINGTON TO RUGBY

By PRINCETHORPE, STRETTON (or BOURTON), DUNCHURCH, BILTON

THE road runs more or less uphill the whole way, but there are no steep climbs.

Princethorpe is notable for its Benedictine Convent, called St Mary's Priory, built in 1883 and recently enlarged. It is not shown, and only a small part of the Chapel is thrown open to the public at certain services on Sundays. The original community were driven from France at the Revolution. Just beyond the village the road divides—(1) the turning L., i.e. the Fosseway, leading to Stretton-on-Dunsmore, where the church was built by Rickman in 1835. ½ m. beyond Stretton the Fosseway joins the main road across Dunsmore Heath (3 Henry VI. v. 1); (2) the turning R. runs across Dunsmore Heath. 2 m. further Bourton-on-Dunsmore lies ½ m. to the R. of the road. The church (keys at the clerk's in the village) contains a number of tombs of the Shuckburghs, from 1707 onwards, and a two-decker carved pulpit of 1607. Queen Elizabeth passed through the village on her way to Kenilworth.

From the turning to Bourton the "Straight Mile" runs over the Heath to join the main road to Dunchurch. The angle between the roads is the scene of Guy's conflict with the dun cow. The Heath is now enclosed, but here and there a rough patch of furze remains to hint at what it was in earlier days. This road to Dunchurch is the old High Holyhead road, and a favourite haunt of highwaymen. From the point where it is joined by the "Straight Mile" it is flanked by an avenue of fir-trees right into Dunchurch; and westward again beeches, elms, and firs

run for nearly three miles. The trees were planted by a Duke of Montagu, known as "John the Planter," in the middle of the eighteenth century.

Dunchurch was formerly of more importance than at present, as a posting station on the great road. At the Dun Cow Inn on the L. of the green forty coaches are said to have stopped daily. Here are held the Courts Baron and Leet of the Hundred of Knightlow (see p. 118). On the green stand the stocks, and a market cross with an obelisk top put on in 1813. Next to the inn are the Almshouses, built by Thos. Newcombe (see below) and since rebuilt. On the R. of the entrance to the church is an old gabled house with an overhanging upper storey, now a private house. In the seventeenth century this was the Old Lion Inn, where on Nov. 5th, 1605, a "hunting party" assembled at the invitation of Sir Everard Digby. Their object was not hunting, but waiting to hear news of the Gunpowder Plot. At night Catesby arrived to announce its failure, and from this house the conspirators fled westward toward Worcestershire. The church (key at vicarage close by) is Dec. The doorway under the tower has rare hanging tracery outside, and there is good carving under the battlements of the tower. On the N. wall of the chancel is a monument, with marble doors fixed open, to Thos. Newcombe, Printer to Charles II., who died in 1681, to be succeeded by his son as Printer to James II. The cherub's head beneath is exceptionally good.

From the church the road R. is the way to Bilton. The first turning L. from that is marked To Cawston, a place which having been depopulated by its owners, the monks of Pipwell, became "a den of thieves and manslavers." It is well to resist the first turning L. marked To Bilton, and to go on to the second, which runs into the village round the back of Bilton Hall. Here lived Joseph Addison, Esq., Secretary of State, and his wife, Charlotte, the widowed Countess of Warwick. The

courtship and marriage, it seems, were not entirely happy. Addison, who bought the place in 1712, four years before his marriage, appears to have put in French windows, and added the S. wing. The avenue of elms in front of the house shows where the old drive ran: the iron gates are said to be now in the garden. There is talk also of a formal garden, of pictures collected, and a cedar planted by Addison, and of an arbour that he favoured; but since the house changed hands a few years ago admission is not to be had. church (open), close to the Hall, is mainly new, but contains two good doorways, N. and S. of the chancel. On the N. of the chancel is the ogee arch of a Sepulchre, now blocked up. On the S. of the chancel, just within the altar rails, is a small brass in the floor to Charlotte. daughter of Addison and his Countess, ob. 1797, aged eighty, and unmarried. In a glass case on the oak screen in the N. aisle are an old lead chalice and paten, dug up from a priest's grave on the N. of the church. Oak panelling runs all round the walls. From Bilton the road runs down a short hill and up a long one to Rugby, passing on the R. St Marie's Church, and entering the town by Rugby School.

XXI

RUGBY

THE School lies at the corner of Sheep Street and High Street. (For a guide apply at the School Marshal's

office under the gateway.)

The gateway opens into the Old Quad, which dates from 1813. On the E. (i.e. the L.) is the headmaster's house: on the N. Big School, on the S. the Hall with the Dormitories over it, and on the N. and W. are class-rooms. Over the entrance gate is the Sixth Form class-room, in which Dr Arnold used to teach. An

oriel window, overlooking High Street, is filled with the names of all the headmasters, of whom the first was Nicholas Greenhill (p. 87), and their portraits from Ingles, 1797, in whose days took place the "Great Rebellion," to Dr Percival. In the N.E. corner a passage leads to the New Quad which dates from 1858 and later. The Chapel, built in 1820, enlarged in 1851, and entirely rebuilt in 1871, has been recently again enlarged. The apsidal chapel with a lantern roof was added in 1871: hence Dr Arnold's tomb, originally under the altar, is now at the foot of the chancel steps. The chapel contains monuments to Dr Arnold, Dean Stanley, Archbishop Benson, and other divines who have been masters of the school. Near the W. end are the "Crimean" and "Mutiny" windows; and the E. window contains beautiful glass, ascribed to the school of Dürer. The New Quad also contains classrooms, and beyond it lies the identical playground on which Tom Brown had his first experience of Rugby Racquet-courts and a new swimming-bath occupy a part of the field. Opposite the gate of the headmaster's house is the Speech Room, built in 1885. Below are class-rooms: above, a concert-room. The walls are hung with interesting portraits of famous men educated at Rugby School.

In the Barby road (down which Tom Brown and East started on the Hare and Hounds) is the Temple Library and Museum, named after the present Archbishop of Canterbury, who was headmaster here. In the front is a statue of Tom Hughes, author of "Tom Brown"; and the Library and Museum are full of interesting and beautiful things. Rugby School was founded in 1567 by Lawrence Sherriff, grocer, of London, who intended it to be a free school for the children of Rugby and Brownsover, his native village. By a codicil to his will he revoked a bequest of money and gave instead a third part of Conduit Close, Middlesex, then let at £8 a year. That field is now Lamb's

Conduit Street and the adjacent streets, and brings in over £5000 a year. Among famous pupils may be mentioned Macready, who insisted on acting even in boyhood, Walter Savage Landor, Matthew Arnold and Hodson of Hodson's Horse. The great Dr Arnold was headmaster here from 1828-1842. The church (S. door open 10-1 and 2-4) is all new and Butterfield, except the wooden ceiling of the N. aisle, which is that of the nave of the old church, and the fourteenth century tower at the W., which contains a fireplace and the springs of the old groined roof, now demolished. The church possesses thirteen bells, five in the old tower and eight in the new tower and spire. Near the old tower is a tablet to "the poet-pastor, the good John Moultrie," rector here, ob. 1874. Behind the church stands the timbered Old Vicarage; and on the other side of the street the Almshouses, founded by Lawrence Sherriff; those to the E. occupying the site of his Mansion House, where the school originally stood.

At the lower end of North St., which runs from the clock-tower in the Market Pl., is a public park, crossed by two paths. That to the L. leads into the Newbold road, which crosses the Avon near the Avon Inn, once a mill. Here there is an old brick dovecot. The turning R. past the inn leads under an eleven-arched railway bridge, in the first field beyond which on the R. are three red bathing-sheds. Before the new bath was built in the play-ground, this was the school bathing-place, described in "Tom Brown"; and here the Swift joins the Avon. In 1427 the Council of Constance gave orders to exhume and burn the body of Wyclif at Lutterworth. His ashes were thrown into the Swift, which conveyed them at this spot "into Avon, Avon into Severn, Severn into the narrow seas, they into the main ocean." The path across the park to the R. leads to the foot-bridge over the L. and N.W. main line, here of enormous width. The view of the stations at night with their coloured lights and the trains passing

underneath is impressive. Beyond the bridge the footpath to Brownsover runs over "the planks," mentioned in "Tom Brown," a wooden bridge over the Avon with a long wooden causeway on either side raised above the level of probable floods. 2 m. S.E. of Rugby lies Hillmorton, where the church contains three very interesting tombs, one of which, in the S. aisle, is taken to be that of Sir Thomas de Astley who fell in 1265 at the battle of Evesham.

XXII

RUGBY TO LEAMINGTON

By NEWBOLD - ON - AVON, LAWFORD, KING'S NEWNHAM, BRETFORD and BRANDON, WOLSTON, KNIGHTLOW HILL, RYTON.

BEYOND the Avon the Newbold road climbs a steep hill. The church of Newbold-on-Avon (key at the clerk's on the L. a little beyond the church) is chiefly interesting for its monuments, of which may be mentioned: 1. On the S. wall of the chancel, Sir Wm. Boughton, Bart., 1716, M.P. for the county in the Parliament that made the Peace in the reign of Oueen Anne: life-size figures under a canopy which is broken to admit a curtained dome with cherubs' heads 2. At the E. end of the S. aisle Ed. beneath it. Boughton, 1548, a curious and unusual work in two stages with figures of himself and wife and seven children in high relief. The whole is coloured. 3. Opposite the above a monument of the same description to Ed. Boughton, 1625. 4. In the floor of the S. aisle a slab with incised figures of two women. Of the inscription running round it only the two words Galfird Allesley are easily legible. 5. In the N. aisle a bust of Mrs Ward-Boughton-Lee, 1897, by Norris. The first turning L. from the main road leads to Little Lawford, 12 m. At the corner of the road L. to Long Lawford stands the old Lawford Hall, or Holbrook Court. Here in 1780 Sir Theodosius Boughton, "a vicious and sickly youth," was poisoned with laurel-water by his brother-in-law and heir, Capt. Donellan, who was

duly hanged at Warwick.

King's Newnham, 11 m. further, retains the tower only of its old church, now standing in a farmyard; and, near the river, a chalybeate bath, of which Walter Bailey, M.D., writing in 1587, warns people never to venture to drink above six or at the utmost eight pints in one day, nor to "use them in the leap-yeers"! Church Lawford, 1 m. S., is noteworthy as the home of the ancestors of President Garfield. From King's Newnham the road runs straight in 2 m. to Bretford (broad ford) where the Fosseway crosses the Avon; from which Brandon lies 2 m. On the far side of the railway bridge beyond the village, in the first field on the R. are the remains, nothing but mounds and a few blocks of masonry, of Brandon Castle, razed by Simon de Montfort in the Barons' War, rebuilt in the reign of Edward I., and again destroyed before the seventeenth century. From the mounds there is a view of a graceful Georgian bridge over the Avon.

Just beyond the castle comes Wolston, where the church has a short, squat tower, the lower part of it Norman, or rather Transitional, in which interesting style most of the church is built. The W. door is particularly rich. In the S. aisle is a canopied monument with no name or date. The Transitional arches into the transepts, the grotesque capitals and the font, a beautiful specimen of Dec. work, are worth noticing. The first turning L. beyond the church leads to the Priory. An old gabled farmhouse stands on the site of the monastery founded in the time of the Conqueror to receive a foreign community. Of the older building nothing remains but the doorway on the side facing the

road. The present house, with square-headed, stone-

mullioned windows, is picturesque.

From Wolston village the road to the L. leads to the High Holyhead road, close to Stretton-on-Dunsmore. Knightlow Hill, from which there is a wide view, is the first hill on this road, going towards Coventry. On the R., just past the last cottage of the hamlet, is the field in which stands the base of an old cross, now called the Knightlow Stone. One fir tree remains of the four which used to stand about it, traditionally said to represent four knights who were killed and buried here. Two young chestnut trees have been planted on the spot, but it is a pity the Four Knights are not replaced. Every Martinmas (Nov. 11th) at sunrise this field is the scene of the old ceremony of the payment of "wroth-money" to the agent of the Lord of the Hundred of Knightlow, the Duke of Buccleuch, probably in acknowledgment of his lordship over the common lands. The day before, the "penny-man," an officer appointed by the Court Leet at the Dun Cow Inn. Dunchurch, comes round to collect one penny from each house along the high road and others between this and Stretton. On Martinmas the representatives of the parishes in the hundred drop a small fixed tribute into the socket in the base of the cross. The penalty for default is a money fine or a white bull with a red nose and ears. After the ceremony there is a breakfast at the Dun Cow Inn, close by.

(From Stretton, the Fosseway, here in good order, runs S.W. to Princethorpe, which is about $6\frac{1}{2}$ m. from

Leamington.)

Ryton-on-Dunsmore is $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. from Knightlow Hill, down a steep hill. The church (key at the clerk's just beyond) is partly Norman. The W. door is peculiarly low. There is little else of interest in this sadly neglected place except the pretty view over the Avon from the E. end of the churchyard. From Ryton the High Holyhead road runs on to Coventry, 4 m.:

Leamington can be reached in about 7 m. through Bubbenhall and straight on.

XXIII

REDDITCH

TARDEBIGGE, BROMSGROVE, The LICKEYS (HAWKSLEY), COSTON HACKETT, BARNT GREEN, ALVECHURCH, BORDESLEY

REDDITCH (i.e. the red [marl] valley) a new and busy town famous for its needles and fish-hooks, can boast of no beauty and little history.

From the M.R. station a good road runs past Hewell Grange, the seat of Lord Windsor, to **Tardebigge**, 3½ m., where there is a noted view from the churchyard. In the church (open) are a beautiful monument by Chantrey to Other Archer, 6th Earl of Plymouth, and a good rococo memorial to Crookes, 1694. Bromsgrove, an old country town, lies in the valley 2 m. beyond Tardebigge, and has a fine church. The two -plain doorways on N. and S. are Norman: the E. window, chancel arch and W. doorway are E.E.: there is Dec. work in the windows on either side of the N. door: the clerestory, S. arcade and S. aisle windows are Perp., and the four-centred arch near the organ is Tudor. The Perp. Tower is panelled and has quaint gargoyles. Near the S. door is a monument with the recumbent effigy of George Lytelton, Counsellor of Law, in a Sergeant's gown, 1600. At the E. end of the N. aisle is the altar-tomb of Sir Humphrey Stafford of Grafton, killed with his brother William at the battle of Blackheath or Sevenoaks by Jack Cade and his rebels in 1450 (King Henry VI. iv. 2 and 3, which describe the scene and its sequel). The figure on this tomb is a locus classicus for the study of the armour of

the period, which includes the collar of SS., introduced by Henry IV., being the first letter of his favourite motto, "Soveragne." Sir Humphrey's wife, who lies beside him, founded a chantry here in 1479. Their son, Humphrey, fought against Henry VII. at Bosworth Field and was executed at Tyburn in 1485. Next to this tomb is that of Sir John Talbot of Grafton, 1551, and his two wives, also excellently preserved, with one curious exception. Beneath the present inscription there was at one time another in raised letters, stating that his first wife, Margaret Troutbeck, bare to him three sons and three daughters, and his second wife, Elizabeth Wrottesley, bare to him four sons and four daughters. This inscription, which can still be faintly traced, was found at the time of the Shrewsbury Estates trial in 1859 to have been cut away. The business of the trial, a famous one in its day, was to settle the succession of the descendants of the two families of this Sir John Talbot. At the N.E. end of the chancel is a beautiful alabaster effigy of Elizabeth, wife of Sir Gilbert Talbot, Sir John's half-brother. Jewels were once set in the figure, as the holes remain to testify. In the churchyard, outside the N. door, lies the almost obliterated effigy of a woman unknown, which was dug up in the N. aisle many years ago. It is said to be older than the church. On the wall over the road on the N. is a small fragment of sandstone, all that remains of the effigy of "Tom," a man (or possibly a woman, a Huband of Ipsley) who sold himself to the Devil, promising to be buried neither in nor out of the churchvard. He was buried therefore under the wall. How the bargain was affected by the moving of the wall some years ago is a knotty point. On the site of the present Sheep-market stood an old Tithe-barn, in which, according to one account, Mrs Siddons, then about twelve, made her first appearance on the stage, playing "Ariel" in The Tempest.

From Bromsgrove an excellent road climbs con-

sistently some 600 ft. in 3 m. to the summit of the Lickey Hills, where stands the obelisk erected to the memory of Henry, last Earl of Plymouth, 1843. These Lickey Hills are partly new red sandstone, partly quartz, the former being green to the top, the latter covered with heather. From the obelisk the road winds in and out among hills of the miniature-picturesque order, mostly of which have been purchased by the Birmingham Corporation for public parks.

The second turning R. beyond Rednal runs across Coston Common to join the Redditch and Birmingham road near Grovely House, once the seat of the Lyteltons. The high road forks here, leading R. to Hawksley Hall, which stands on the site of a moated house fortified and garrisoned by the Parliamentary troops in 1645. Charles I. attacked in person; the soldiers refused to defend on seeing the king, and the place was stormed and demolished.

In Rednal a turning R. leads to Coston Hackett. The church (open) contains an alabaster monument to Wm. Leycester, lord of the manor, and his two wives, 1508. Coston Hall, a farmhouse close by, stands on the site of the Leycester mansion. The avenue remains; the kitchen was part of the banqueting hall, and has a fine fifteenth century roof with carved bosses to the beams and coats of arms on the corbels. In the cellar, part of the wall is a piece of solid rock. In this house Charles I. slept on the night before the storming of Hawksley, having come from Droitwich. Barnt Green, I m., has a good timbered house on the R. of the road to Alvechurch, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m., which lies comparatively low. The church (key at the decorator's opposite the Swan Inn) was carefully restored in 1861, and has Norman and E.E. work. Under a cinquefoil arch in

the N. aisle is the recumbent figure of Sir John de Blanchfort, 1346. There are brasses to Chatwyn, 1524, a gentleman-usher to Henry VIII., and Acton, 1680 and 1684. Dr Jex-Blake, Dean of Wells, was once rector here, and two of the eight bells were given in memory of his pastorate. In the twelfth century the bishops of Worcester had their palace here, and till a year ago the moats could be traced. The new house on the site has removed the last vestiges.

From Alvechurch a good road runs in 3 m. to Redditch. On the outskirts of the town, a little way past the gasworks, is a turning L., which leads, bearing all the way R., to a gate, at which it stops. In the field beyond the gate may be seen the mounds that mark the site of Bordesley Abbey, a Cistercian house founded in 1138 by the Empress Maud, sister of Henry I. The buildings extended over eight acres. The chapel remained in use as late as 1806. After the Dissolution Henry VIII., having taken a fancy to Stockwell, the property of Lord Windsor, insisted on his taking Bordesley in "exchange." In point of scenery this is one of the best excursions in the district.

XXIV

EVESHAM

EVESHAM lies in the vale named after it, which stretches, according to Drayton, from Malvern to Meon (p. 62), and is famous for its fruit farms, the fertility of which is due partly to the river and its deposits, partly to the labours of the monks and the enterprise of Bernardi, a Genoese nobleman who settled here in the seventeenth century. The time of year to see the place is in the season of the fruit blossom. The town, which lies in a loop of the Avon is quaint, with wide cobbled spaces, the site of old markets, between the road and the pavement,

History.—Ecgwin, Bishop of Worcester, cir. 700 A.D., was accused before Ethelred, king of Mercia, of tyrannous proceedings, and on appealing to the Pope was summoned to Rome. He locked horse-fetters about his legs in sign of humility, threw the key into the Avon and set out. On his arrival in Rome his servant went fishing and caught a salmon, in which was found the key of the fetters. After such a miracle the saint won his case; and Ethelred, in token of reconciliation, gave him a tract of forest, in which the bishop kept swine. Eoves, his swineherd, lost a favourite sow, and finding her at last, was led to an open glade, where he saw three virgins with psalteries, singing. He fetched the bishop, who built the Abbey of Evesham on the spot where the vision had appeared. The Abbey grew to be one of the greatest in England, with splendid buildings and a vast church. On the site, S. of the present market-place, practically nothing is left but a tower, an arch and a Norman gateway leading to the two churches which the monks built side by side for the inhabitants. The gateway, dating from 1122, is now surmounted by a wooden building, but on either side are the arcades from which sprang the vaulted archway. The nearer of the two churches is All Saints (open), an E.E. and Dec. building, with a Perp. porch and S. chapel, both the work of Abbot Lichfield. The S. Chapel has panelled walls and a fan-tracery roof with a carved pendant. Here Abbot Lichfield was buried in 1546. A fine recessed doorway, much carved, leads to the vestry on the N. St Lawrence (key at No. 3, Churchyard) was built before 1223, rebuilt in late Perp. in the sixteenth century and in ruins in 1837. Here again is a S. chapel, now used as a vestry, built by Abbot Lichfield, with a fan roof and an elaborate carved pendant. Outside, on the N. of the W. tower, is a carving of the Crucifixion. The path between the two churches leads to the great Bell Tower, built by Abbot Lichfield between 1533-39, on the site of a

thirteenth century tower, and intended to be gateway, clock-tower and belfry in one. The height is 110 ft, the walls are elaborately panelled, and the vaulted gateway is approached through a crocketed ogee arch.

(Charge for ascending tower, 6d.: key at No. 3, Churchyard.)

S. of this tower and running far out into the field stood the conventual church, the W. end of which was almost flush with the E. end of St Lawrence. S. of the church came the chapter-house, and the fine Dec. arch that now stands between the field and the private garden was the arch leading into the vestibule from the cloisters. The churchyard wall of St Lawrence and the wall running E. from the Norman gate are also fragments of the old building.

On Merstow Green (approached by Vine St.) stand the remains of the W. gate-house, and of the Almonry, the latter now a lawyer's office. On the opposite side is the Grammar School, built by Abbot Lichfield. The porch is modernised but still has over the door the old

inscription.

After the Dissolution the Abbey, with the exception of the tower, was allowed to go to ruins and be used as a quarry. The Town Hall dates partly from 1586. In 1642 Evesham was taken for the king. In 1644, after the battle of Cropredy (p. 139) he came and stayed two nights at 57 Bridge St. As soon as he left, the town was occupied by Waller; but in July the king was here again, and again early in 1645. In May of that year, Colonel Massey stormed and took the town for the Parliament. There is a good new bridge over the Avon on the Bengeworth road, and the Workman Gardens on the river bank are pleasant.

N. of the town, down a turning L. to Worcester, is the Abbey Manor (E. C. Rudge, Esq., J.P.) the garden and grounds of which the owner permits strangers to see on presentation of a visiting-card. In the garden are many carved stones from the Abbey, and the pavilion contains a cross, carved stones and skulls. Mr Rudge's grounds are the site of the battle of Evesham, fought on August 4th, 1265, between the Barons under Simon de Montfort, and Prince Edward, afterwards Edward I. Earl Simon, who had Henry III. in his charge, left Hereford on Sunday, 2nd, and arrived at Evesham Abbey on the Monday night, intending to join his son Simon between Evesham and Kenilworth. But on that Sunday night (p. 93) young Simon had been surprised and defeated by Edward, who now came marching on Evesham. From the top of the Bell Tower his forces were seen coming down the hill from the N., and were taken at first for young Simon's army, whose captured banners they carried. When the truth was learned, Earl Simon found himself trapped. The river ran on three sides: Edward was on the fourth. The Earl and his little band sallied forth, and were hewed to pieces. Behind a house on the L. shortly before a turning from the high road to the Abbey Manor is a well called Battlewell, where Simon is reputed to have fallen at last. Long afterwards the water of it continued to work miraculous cures. His body was foully dismembered, but the monks of the Abbey buried the trunk under their high altar, where it too worked miracles. In the Abbey Manor grounds stands a tower in memory of the "good Earl," and an obelisk to mark the site of the battle, both put up in the last century.

The river at Evesham is navigable for pleasure-boats of any size, and steam-boats run short excursions. Boats on hire at the Bengeworth landing-stage and elsewhere at the usual charges.

XXV

EVESHAM

(BADSEY, WICKHAMFORD), BRETFORTON, WES-TON SUBEDGE (SAINTBURY), ASTON SUB-EDGE, CHIPPING CAMPDEN

I M. out of Evesham on the Campden road a turning R. runs in $\frac{1}{4}$ m. to **Badsey** where the church (key at Manor House close by) is E.E. and Perp. with quaint gargoyles on the tower. On the site of the present Manor House stood the infirmary of the Abbey of Evesham.

The church at Wickhamford, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Badsey (key at sexton's in village) contains gorgeous monuments to the Sandys family: Sir Samuel Sandys, 1626, eldest son of Sandys, Archbishop of York, and his son, Sir Edwyn, who died two days after his father. Their tombs are exactly similar. The linen-fold pattern panels at the end of the pews were brought from a church in London by Lord Sandys. On the E. wall is an old fresco painting of the Virgin and Child. At Wickhamford lived some of the Washington family.

Bretforton, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. of Evesham over the Bengeworth bridge, has Norman work in the church (key at clerk's on R. of main road), and a peculiar capital to a pillar in the N. aisle, representing one scene in the story of S. Margaret, or Maid Margery, who was tempted of the Devil and swallowed by him, but burst him asunder with her crucifix. The last scene is the one carved here. The font is Norman.

To Weston Subedge is a climb of some 4 m. further. The church (open) was rebuilt in 1861, and has a brass to Gifford, 1590. The rectory was formerly the residence of the bishops of Worcester. Icknield Street

bounds the village on the W. At Norton, 1 m. E., is the seat of the Earl of Harrowby. Burnt Norton, close by, was built by Sir William Keyte for one of his mistresses. The house was burnt, and he with it, in 1741. It is said that he fired it himself, being either out of his mind or ruined by his wild life.

From Weston Subedge the Cheltenham road runs S.W. At 1 m. Saintbury lies away on the L. The church has a Norman door and some old glass in the E. window.

From Aston Subedge, 1 m. from Weston Subedge, a stiff climb over a good road leads to Chipping Campden, about 2 m.

XXVI

EVESHAM

CHURCH LENCH, ROUS LENCH, FLADBURY, CROPTHORNE, CHARLTON

Not quite 2 m. N. of Evesham a road strikes L., which runs in about 4 m., largely uphill, to Church Lench: 1½ m. beyond which comes Rous Lench, an ancient place owned by the See of Worcester before the Conquest. The church, which stands in the grounds of the Court, has exceptionally fine Norman work, especially in the S. doorway; and traces of a still earlier church are to be found in the Saxon stone-work. Here are many memorials of the family of Rous, from the altar-tomb of Edward Rous, 1611, to the sentimental monument of Frances Rous, 1715; among them that of Sir John, a Parliamentarian who was captured in his own garden by the Royalists, and haled

to Warwick where he died. The memorial chapel dates from 1885. Rous Lench Court is an early fifteenth century timbered house which formerly surrounded two quadrangles. In 1780 it suffered: part of the house was pulled down, the park was ploughed up and the deer sold off. The damage has since been repaired. In this house Cromwell slept on his way to fight the battle of Worcester, September 3rd, 1650, and here Richard Baxter of Kidderminster used to stay.

From Rous Lench a road runs through Abbot's Lench to Fladbury, in about 4 m. The church (key at the clerk's) is mainly interesting for the old glass in the E. window of the S. aisle, and another window at the W. end of the N. side of the chancel, which contains the arms of seven Knights killed at the battle of Evesham. There are also some good brasses, including those of Payton, 1488, Godyth Bohun, and under the tower the altar-tomb of John Throckmorton and Alianora, his wife, with good brass effigies and shields. Partly in the chancel and partly in the vestry is the colossal monument of William Lloyd, bishop of St Asaph and Lichfield, one of the seven bishops sent to the Tower by James II. Craycombe House, N. of Fladbury, was at one time the residence of the Duc d'Aumale.

The road between Fladbury and Cropthorne crosses the river close to a disused lock, and runs through the grounds of Cropthorne Court. The church has succeeded, through many restorations, in retaining a little of its Norman work, and has monuments to the Dingley family, including two handsome tombs of 1624 and 1646. In the S. aisle, under a ball-flower ornamented arch, lies the tombstone of a priest, and in the E. window stands a runic cross, which was discovered built into the S. wall. At Charlton, 1 m. N.E., the actor Samuel Foote lived. 1½ m. S. of Charlton the road joins the main road from Pershore to Evesham, which lies 1½ m. further.

XXVII

EVESHAM

NETHERTON, ELMLEY CASTLE, BREDON HILL, BRICKLEHAMPTON, LITTLE COMBERTON

THE first turning L. from the Pershore road and the first R. lead to Elmley Castle. The hamlet of **Netherton** off the road to the R. contains the remains of a

Norman chapel, now used as a stable.

Elmley Castle is a picturesque village with old houses. The church has a Norman tower and monuments to the Savage family, including Thomas, first Earl of Coventry, 1699. The restoration of the church in 1878 brought to light the rood stairs, the Norman carvings and mural paintings. Of the castle S. of the village, formerly the stronghold of the D'Abitots and built soon after the Conquest, nothing remains but the foundation. At the death and attainder in 1471 of the King-Maker Earl of Warwick, who had owned it, it was pulled down, and the stones were taken later to build the bridge at Pershore. Elmley Castle lies under Bredon Hill, the highest in the district (961 ft.), which divides the Vale of Evesham from the Vale of Cotswold.

Bricklehampton, N. of Elmley Castle, has a Norman and E.E. church; Little Comberton church has a Norman N. door with an unusual tympanum, and other Norman work. Roman remains have been found in the churchyard. From Little Comberton the road runs N., joining the Pershore road near Wick, $4\frac{1}{2}$ m. from

Evesham.

XXVIII

BANBURY

BANBURY was of some importance in Roman times, though perhaps of less than Brinavis, or Black Grounds, near Chipping Warden. Many Roman coins have been found, and at one time, on the site of the present Baptist Chapel in Bridge St., there was preserved under an arch outside an inn known as the "Altarstone," or later the "George and Altarstone," a Roman

altar, which was destroyed in 1768.

In 556 the West Saxons were defeated by the Britons near Banesbyrig: William I. is said to have stayed at the Altarstone Inn; and early in the twelfth century Alexander de Blois, Bishop of Lincoln and lord of the manor of Banesberie, built his castle somewhere about the present Castle Street, and a church on the site of the present Parish Church. After the battle of Edgehill the town came into Royalist hands, and the castle was garrisoned by the king. In 1644 it was besieged by the Parliamentarian army for thirteen weeks in vain: but at the second siege in 1646 its governor, Sir William Compton (p. 65) surrendered it. Like many other castles, it was dismantled, and has now wholly disappeared. In High Street and at the corner of the market-place stand the remains of the Bishops' Palace, which must have been a large and handsome fifteenth century building. The remnant is now cut up into shops. Before the days of Alexander de Blois the manor was in the hands of the Bishops of Dorchester: with him it was transferred to the see of Lincoln, and was finally resigned to the crown in 1547. The original Banbury Cross in the Horse Fair was destroyed by the Puritans in the reign of Elizabeth, and the present Cross was erected near its site in 1868, to commemorate the marriage of the Princess

Royal with the Emperor Frederick.

Of the Hospital of St John in South Bar and St Leonard's Hospital for lepers out beyond the station on the far side of the river, nothing remains. In the Market Place, the Unicorn Inn has a fine pair of old gates, dated 1648; and the most interesting and beautiful thing in all Banbury is to be found at the Reindeer Inn in Parson's Street. The gates are dated 1570; while most of the house is early seventeenth century; but the main attraction is the "Globe Room" (admission 3d.), built in 1537. The plaster ceiling, of most elaborate design, is one of the finest known; a model of it was taken some years ago for the South Kensington Museum. The oak mantel, panelling and pillars are black with age, not paint, and the table is as old as the room. Local tradition sets Cromwell presiding at it over a Council meeting before the battle of Edgehill. The scene is impossible on the face of it. Of the church built by Alexander de Blois nothing remains: the whole Gothic edifice was condemned and pulled down in 1790, and all the monuments and valuable old glass perished with it. The present ornate classical building was begun seven years later.

Shakespeare mentions Banbury but once—Merry Wives of Windsor, i. 1—where Bardolph calls Slender "You Banbury cheese!" The sting of the gibe is lost.

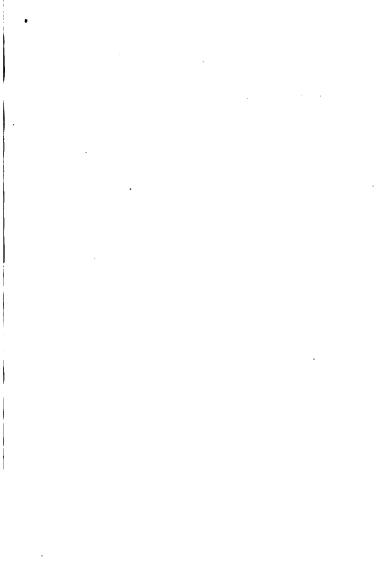
In the seventeenth century Banbury was a noted Puritan centre, and tried hard to convert the worldly Stratford. Nowadays it is a busy market town, doing its best to shake off its ancient name for dirt, and manufacturing plush, lace, and the famous Banbury cakes.

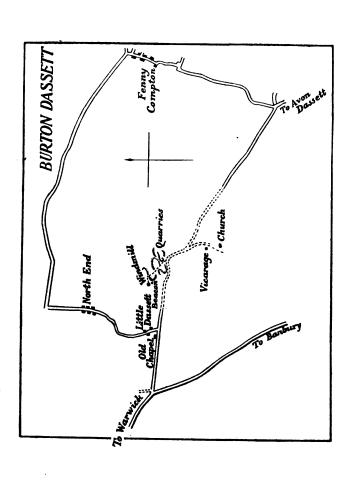
XXIX

BANBURY

HANWELL, WARMINGTON, AVON DASSETT, BURTON DASSETT, FENNY COMPTON, WORMLEIGHTON

THE Warwick and Banbury road, one of the best in the district for bicycles, has been described as far as Gaydon. This route will exhaust the rest. 21 m. from Banbury, Hanwell lies close on the R. The church, Dec. with remains of E.E., has some quaint sculpture in the capitals of the nave arcade, and the monument of Sir Antony Cope, 1614, restored in 1813 from the damage which it suffered at the hands of the Parliamentary forces who used the church as a stable. Close by on the N. stands a farmhouse on the site of Hanwell Castle, built by Antony Cope, Cofferer to Henry VII. One brick tower out of four, the old garden and one fish-pond out of many are all that is left. The castle was pulled down at the end of the eighteenth century. 3 m. beyond Hanwell is Warmington, a pretty village. The village green, which is not the highest part of the place, lies 600 feet above sea-level, and the water is full of iron. 2 m. away lies Edgehill, the road to which is exceptionally good, with views on all sides, and the old house of Arlescote lying below. The church (keys at the vicarage at the far end of the green) lies high, and is approached from the road by long flights of steps on the E. and N.W. It is mainly Dec. in style, with fine sedilia in the chancel, and a Norman font. The Lady Chapel, N. of the chancel, is now used as a vestry, and contains a stone altar. Above it lies a room, either a hermitage, or possibly the residence of the priest, which has no entrance except through the





church. In the S. wall is a small window commanding the altar, and an aumbry, through which the machinery of the organ now protrudes. In the churchyard are many elaborately worked tombstones. Near the path leading from the S. porch to the S. gate is that of Captain Alexander Gourdin (obviously the local pro-nunciation of Gordon), killed at the battle of Edgehill. The green has an old gabled stone Manor House at the head and a big trough for sheep-washing in the centre. In a garden behind the vicarage is a pool from which two streams start, one to join the Avon and flow into the Severn, the other to join the Thames through the Cherwell.

Outside Warmington the Beacon and the churches of Avon Dassett and Burton appear on the hills ahead. Avon Dassett lies up a steep hill on the R. of the road. The church (keys at the vicarage close by) is new, but contains a unique effigy, probably of the thirteenth century, of a priest in vestments. The hill continues beyond the church: the next turning L. leads along a not very bad fosse-road through several gates to the Burton Hills. These hills are much cut about with old and new quarries and iron-works, and have a certain wild beauty on a small scale. Owing to the Burton Dassett Iron Co.'s quarries, the top of the Beacon hill is only to be reached by climbing from the E. end, nearest the church, going along the slope right to the windmill and then returning to the Beacon. This hill has no doubt been used as a signal station from time immemorial, but the Beacon itself dates from the fifteenth century; a stone building 15 feet high with two windows, one facing Malvern, the other High Cross, both good places for bonfires. The fire was lighted on the roof. Here Prince Rupert set his pickets, and here was lighted the first fire which, taken up at Ivinghoe, forty miles S.E., carried from beacon to beacon the news of Edgehill till it reached London. In the opposite direction a steep track runs

to the vicarage and the church. Between the two rises an old spring, roofed over in the sixteenth century. The church (keys at the vicarage) is interesting for its desolate situation (the village was depopulated temp. Henry VIII.) and the skilful way in which it follows the upward slope of the ground from W. to E. From tower to altar is practically a flight of steps. There is much good E.E. work in it, two Norman doorways, and a fine Dec. tower. The carvings of animals on the capitals of the N. arcade are spirited. Fenny Compton may be reached either through North End, when the road at the W. foot of the Beacon passes an E.E. chapel now used as a stable; or by returning along the road from Avon Dassett and turning L. at the cross The village is full of old houses, the Red Lion Inn with its sundial being especially picturesque. The N. door of the church still shows the bullet-marks of some skirmish after Edgehill.

Beyond the comfortless station, which lies I m. away from the village, the road climbs steadily up to Wormleighton. Up this hill Prince Rupert's pickets must have galloped on the night of Oct. 22, 1642. Round to the L. in the village stands the old Manor House of the Spencers, built early in the sixteenth century. The side that first comes into view was the back of the complete house, which occupied two quadrangles and had its front on the N. facing the church. The S. side, said to have been the bakehouse and kitchen, contains little that has not been modernised. Just E. of this block came the gates of the old entrance, which seems to have been demolished when the tower and gatehouse were built later. The N. side, now a farmhouse, shows traces of the old front door in the wall of its kitchen, originally part of the entrance hall. The present brewhouse, in which the handsome windows have been blocked up, was the dining-hall, and above it is a room known as the Star Chamber from its decoration of gilt stars which are still visible. There

are many coats of arms on the N. and S. of the house. The tower and gatehouse, a later addition, has the royal arms over the S. front of the entrance arch, and other shields on the N. The tower contains a curious old clock, which strikes but has no face. The Spencers became great in Henry VIII.'s reign, when they purchased the property; were ennobled about the end of the sixteenth century, and finally became Earls of Sunderland. The first Earl married Lady Dorothy Sidney, the "Saccharissa" of Edmund Waller, and was killed on the Royalist side at Newbury in 1643. this house Queen Elizabeth is said to have stayed, and here Prince Rupert slept the night before Edgehill. The house was partly burned during the Civil Wars. The church (open) has some good Transitional Norman in the arcades: the rest is mainly Dec. and Perp. The very handsome screen, obviously much too big for its present position, is said to have been the musicians' gallery in the manor house; and there is more old wood-work in the church. On the N. wall is a monument to John Spencer, who died at Blois in 1610, aged nineteen; on the S. wall one to "An." Barford, 1686, and under a circular slab by the altar rails lie the "bowells" of Robert, Lord Spencer. In Wormleighton lived a branch of the Washingtons of Sulgrave. Their names occur in the Registers in the sixteenth century. At the foot of the hill W. of Wormleighton the Warwick and Banbury road runs through Farnborough and Mollington to Banbury.

XXX

BANBURY

(WARDINGTON) WARKWORTH, MIDDLETON CHENEY, CHALCOMBE, EDGCOTE, CHIP-PING WARDEN (BYFIELD, CHARWELTON), ASTON-LE-WALLS, CROPREDY

This, the main Daventry road, leaves Banbury by the old bridge over the Cherwell, and turn L. just after getting clear of Grimsbury. Wardington, 4½ m., which has an E.E. and Dec. church, lies high above the river valley, into which the road drops again to Chipping Warden, just over the borders of Northants. Another and more interesting way is to go straight on

from Grimsbury along the Brackley road.

13 m. out, Overthorpe and Warkworth lie 1 m. on the R. The church, which stands midway between them, is mainly Dec. with an E.E. arcade, and contains, among other monuments, that of Sir John de Lyons, in the armour of Edward III.'s reign, of his father. also Sir John, and of Sir John Chetwode, 1412. of the bench ends are of the fifteenth century, and well In the garden wall of Warkworth Farm are the arms of the Lyons and Chetwode families. thorpe Castle, where these families lived, was pulled down in 1806. 1 m. further, and also to be reached by a path from Warkworth, lies Middleton Cheney (Chenduit, lords of the manor till Edward I.). The early Dec. church, with fine Perp. tower, is one of the best in the neighbourhood. The S. porch, a little later than the church, is built entirely of grey ashlar; the only other like it is at Chalcombe. William de Edyngdon, afterwards Bishop of Winchester, was rector here. 1327-45, and to him is ascribed the unusual and beautiful E. window. The clerestory is Perp., like the screen.

to which the cornice was added in the last century. The glass is especially noteworthy, being executed by William Morris from designs by himself, Burne Jones, and others. The W. window contains Burne Jones's first design for the famous "Six Days of Creation." On May 6th, 1643, a battle was fought here between the Parliamentary forces on their way to attack Banbury and the Royalists under the Earl of

Northampton. The latter were victorious.

The road past the church runs uphill and then down into Chalcombe, which has a fine E.E. church, with a brass in the chancel to Michael Fox, a London merchant, 1569, and a Norman column near the S. door, on which is carved the figure of a priest with crosses on either side. The font is early Norman, and the S. porch like that at Middleton Cheney. An Augustinian Priory was founded here in the reign of Henry II. at the W. end of the village. The first turning L. beyond Chalcombe runs into the Daventry road 1 m. from Wardington, just beyond which there is a turning R. to Edgcote House and church through the park. Edgcote belonged to Thomas Cromwell. Queen Elizabeth stayed here in 1572 with William Chauncy, who had recently acquired the place, and from whom, by marriage and descent, it came to its present owner, A. H. C. Cartwright, Esq., who kindly allows visitors to see it. The present house dates only from 1752, but contains interesting remnants of the old one; fine oak panelling and chimney-piece in the servants' hall; and in the quaint Court-room downstairs, where the squire sat as Justice of the Peace, the Royal Arms with E.R. The pictures include a portrait of Charles I.'s host, Sir William Chauncy, and a head of Sir Joshua Reynolds by himself. Upstairs is the king's bed. The church (open), which stands in the grounds, has a stoup outside the S. door and a Transitional Norman arcade on the S., and contains monuments to Willyam Chancye, 1585; Tobye

Chauncey, 1607; Richard Chauncy, 1760 (with a bust by Rysbrack), and a quaint slab to Bridget Chauncy, 1730, a spinster "of whom man was not worthy." Her age is not recorded. In the spinney at the N. end of the park stands a curious group of four figures, taken from the old house, representing a butler, a cook, a treasurer, and a confessor, standing back to back. A red streak in the stone has gained for them the local title of the "Bloody Warriors." Danesmoor, 1 m. S.E., has been the site of two battles; the first, some unrecorded fight between Danes and Saxons; the second, that in 1469, between Robin of Redesdale, the northern rebel, and the king's troops, under the Earl of Pembroke. The rebels won, took the Earl to Banbury, and beheaded him.

From Edgcote House the road runs through the park to Chipping Warden. The church (open) is good late Dec. in style with peculiar wheel-tracery in the N. aisle windows. It contains brasses to William Smarte. rector, 1468, and Richard Makepeace, yeoman, 1564, with his wife and fifteen children. On the village green are the very high steps of a cross and an enormous elm. The first turning R. out of the village leads down a rough road to near the site of the Roman station of Brinavis or Black Grounds. Nothing is left there now, but a tesselated pavement was discovered some years ago and coins are still turned up. Close to the village are two sets of ancient earthworks, Arbury Banks on the L. of the road from Wardington, and Wallow Bank close to the road to Byfield. The former is an entrenchment, possibly Roman, possibly the site of a Saxon house; the latter a rampart built entirely of earth. Only fragments remain of either.

3½ m. beyond Chipping Warden comes Byfield, where the church is late Dec.; with a rich W. doorway and a fine tower; and 3 m. beyond Byfield is

Charwelton, where the Cherwell rises in the cellar of a house.

1½ m. beyond Chipping Warden a road leads to Aston-le-Walls, where the church (keys at the sexton's opposite the iron building) is mainly Dec., and contains brasses to the Butler family, 1609, etc., and a marble monument to Elizabeth Orme, 1692, who "at seven could read distinctly to the Sence," and appears to have been amazingly virtuous. The figure of a priest lies on the N. side of the aisle. At Appletree, 1½ m. further on the road to Cropredy, lived Alban Butler, author of the "Lives of the Saints."

Just at the entrance to Cropredy, in a field on the R. stands the remains of an old cross. Church (open) is mainly early Dec. with a distinctive feature in the continuous moulding (rare in England) of the Nave arcade. Over the vestry on the N. is a priest's room with a window looking over the church. The pulpit, the oak chest in the S. aisle, the Pre-Reformation brass eagle lectern, the rood-screen now in the N. chantry chapel, and the fifteenth century screen in the S. aisle are noticeable. On the E. wall is an old painting of "The Doom"; and on the S. wall a helmet and armour, relics of the battle of Cropredy. This battle was fought on 29th June 1644 by the bridge over the Cherwell (the canal and its bridge close by are, of course, much later) between the Royalists under Charles in person and the Parliamentary troops under Waller. The battle was inde-Waller, who had come from London with new levies, "wandered" back again and lost his army by desertion: the king followed Essex into Cornwall and captured his army. Many relics of the fight have been discovered; and some of the slain were buried in the churchyard. Prescote, ½ m. N. along the canal was one of the seats of the Danvers family, and is now a farmhouse.

From Cropredy, Banbury may be reached either by Great and Little Bourton and the Warwick road, or past Williamscote House, where other relics of the battle of Cropredy are preserved.

This round is rather hilly.

The district described in this book covers sheets 183, 184, 200, and 201, of the One-inch Ordnance Survey, and may be figured roughly by the five of spades, with Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick for the central pip and Redditch, Rugby, Banbury and Evesham for the four others. As a whole it is an undulating plain, rising towards the corners to hills of moderate height: 956 ft. at the Lickeys in the N.W., not more than 400 ft. round Rugby in the N.E., 700 ft. at Edgehill, beyond which there is a drop to Banbury in the S.E., and 961 at Bredon Hill beyond Evesham in the S.W. Nearly 800 ft. is reached at Chipping Campden. The ascent from the valley of the Avon to the bleak plateaus of the Cotswold Hills may be said to begin at Bidford; but it is very gradual on the northern side of Evesham. The Avon cuts the district diagonally from Rugby to Evesham, receiving on its way the Swift at Rugby, the Leam at Milverton and the Arrow at Cleeve Prior. The Alne joins the Arrow at Alcester. The parts N. of the Avon were formerly known as Arden, those on the S. as the Feldon; two British words meaning "hill" and "field." Arden was virgin forest, the Feldon under cultivation. Comparatively recent times have seen the clearing of the forest: in Shakespeare's days it lay close up to Stratford; and it appears to have been mainly destroyed between that date and the end of the eighteenth

century, in order to provide fuel for the ironworks of Worcestershire and Staffordshire, just as the forest of Feckenham owed its destruction to the salt mines (p. 56). The great road from London to Shrewsbury and Holyhead runs across the N.W. corner, from Dunchurch over Dunsmore Heath to Coventry. Of the two roads from London to Birmingham one passes through Banbury and Warwick; the other through Shipston-on-Stour, Stratford-on-Avon and Henley-in-Arden. The roads in the district, with very few exceptions, are well kept, with few serious hills.

The district is exceptionally well provided with hotels; comfortable lodgings can be had at Leamington; and the country inns are excellent. The civility and hospitality of the inhabitants are well known. The scenery has little of the sublime, but much that is rich and quiet, in a typically English way, in orchards, water-meadows and woods. It may be taken for granted that every village contains picturesque houses of brick and timber, or, in the southern parts, of stone; and nearly every churchyard an old yew tree. The interest is mainly antiquarian and historical. Fertile in itself and lying in the very centre of England close round the great high roads from London to the N. and W., the district has seen no small amount of history.

The Romans drove their great roads, Icknield Street and the Fosse-way, across the heart of England, planted stations at Brinavis and Alcester in their province of Flavia Cæsariensis, and melted away, leaving coins and relics to be dug up in many villages to this day. The Britons continued to call the rivers by the names they still bear (Avon = Abhainn, river: Alne = Alainn, lovely: Arrow = Airgead, silver), and warred with the Saxons from their camp at Nadbury. In early Saxon days the district belonged to the province of Hwiccas, in the kingdom of Mercia; and Offa, the great king who barred out the marauding Welsh with his Dyke, had

a palace at Offchurchbury. In the ninth century Wessex succeeded Mercia, and Ethelfleda, the daughter of Alfred the Great, built a castle and ruled at Warwick. The Danes ravaged the fertile valley, destroyed Stratford and Milcote on either side of the ford across the Avon, and had a settlement, as the termination shows, at Rugby. After the Conquest the lands were divided among the Norman lords, to pass little by little into the possession of the great religious houses of Evesham, Kenilworth, and Coventry, until the Dissolution brought robbery and ruin. The Barons' War, the Wars of the Roses and the Civil War, all had scenes enacted on this stage: across it fled the Gunpowder Plot conspirators after their failure in 1605, and Charles II. after the battle of Worcester. Kings and queens have visited nearly every important house in the district, and William Shakespeare was born and died at Stratford. The first recorded holder of the name was William Shakespeare, who was hanged for robbery in 1248. In the fifteenth century there were three families of the name in Warwickshire, at Wroxall, at Rowington and at Temple Balsall. The descent of William Shakespeare has been conjecturally traced from each; but the last appears to have the weight of expert opinion. Richard Shakespeare rented land at Snitterfield in 1543; and about 1551 his son John came to Stratford and opened a shop in Henley Street for the sale of wool, skins, and other produce of the farm at Snitterfield. John Shakespeare's wife was Mary Arden of Wilmcote, in the parish of Aston Cantlow, a woman of means, and possibly an offshoot of a great house. William, the eldest son and third child, was born about 23rd April 1564. His father's prosperity increased, until in 1571 he was chief Alderman of the town: four years later the luck turned, and he grew poorer and poorer, until in 1592, having parted with all his property except his house in Henley Street. he was afraid to go to church for fear of process for debt, and was "presented" for a recusant. Meanwhile, from seven to thirteen, William Shakespeare went to the Grammar School, where he received a sound education in English and Latin, with possibly a little Greek, and left in 1577 to help his father in his trade, now possibly confined to that of a butcher. In November 1582, at the age of eighteen, he married Anne or Agnes Hathaway, a woman of twenty-six, the daughter of a farmer of Shottery. The marriage was hasty, possibly secret. Six months later a daughter Susannah was born. February 1584 saw the birth of the twins, Judith and Hamnet; and not long afterwards their father, urged by lack of means and possibly the poaching affray at Charlecote, left home; perhaps with, or on the heels of the Earl of Leicester's players, perhaps to teach in schools and turn his hand to anything that offered, until he found his way to London and the stage. Stratford saw him no more till 1596, when he appears to have returned, now no longer poor, to be present at the burial of his only son, to rescue his family from debt and to begin his scheme of turning country gentleman by applying, necessarily through his father, for a grant of arms, which was finally given in In 1597 he bought New Place, the largest house in the town, and in 1611 retired from the stage and settled, a wealthy landowner, in his native town; so far as we can see him, a gentle, humorous man, with a keen eye to business; a good citizen and a generous liver. On April 23rd, 1616, he died at the age of fifty-No inference concerning his affection for his wife can fairly be drawn from his will, by which he left her no more than his second best bed, the form of most of his purchases having previously barred her from dower. She was possibly unbusiness-like: she was certainly an elderly woman with grown and married daughters. Her epitaph shows her to have been a good mother. Of the two daughters, Susannah married John Hall, a clever and fashionable Puritan doctor,

with some claim to a medical discovery: Judith married Thomas Quiney, a vintner of Stratford. Susannah's only child, Elizabeth, married first Thomas Nash, once a student at Lincoln's Inn, second, John Barnard, of Abington, Northants, a country gentleman who was knighted by Charles II. She died without issue in 1669. Of Judith Quiney's three sons, none lived beyond nineteen; and William Shakespeare's descendants came to an end.

References in literature to this district are many. Shakespeare's works abound in deliberate and semiconscious descriptions of the scenery: his forest of Ardennes in As you like it is but the forest of Arden, as it may still be seen at Stoneleigh. Drayton in his "Polyolbion," Fuller in his "Worthies of England," and passim, Somervile, Shenstone and Jago all treat of the valley of the Avon and the hills that rise from it. John Rous, the fifteenth century antiquary, was priest at Guy's Cliff, and Dugdale, a Warwickshire man, was in attendance on Charles I. at Edgehill. The poems written upon the celebration of Dover's Cotswold games may be found in Annalia Dubrensia, London, 1636. Since the cult of Shakespeare became popular scarcely a famous man of letters but has visited and written about the district. At Garrick's 1769 "Jubilee" Boswell appeared in preposterous clothes and ready with a poem which he was not allowed to deliver. Washington Irving staved at the Red Horse Hotel, Stratford, where he wrote part of the "Sketch Book," and Nathaniel Hawthorne at 10 Lansdowne Circus, Leamington, while collecting materials for "Our Old Home." To think of Kenilworth is to recall Sir Walter Scott: Dickens chose Holly Walk, Leamington, for the scene of the first meeting between Edith Granger and Mr Carker in "Dombey & Son," and Thackeray commemorates the old Royal Hotel, now demolished, in the "Fatal Boots." "Handley Cross" describes the Leamington of a century ago. "Tom Brown's Schooldays" and the letters of Dr Arnold show Rugby from two different points of view; and two intrepid souls who journeyed from Rugby to the Severn in a canoe have left a charming record of their exploration, "The Warwickshire Avon," by A. T. Quiller-Couch, with illustrations by Alfred Parsons.

Geology.—The district as a whole forms part of the great midland area of red marl and new red sandstone. A patch of Permian, beginning just S. of Kenilworth and stretching E. to Stoneleigh Park, widens gradually till it is some 10 m. broad at Coventry, and leads up to the S. Staffs coal-fields. The hills in the S.E., the Burton Hills, Edgehill, and those round Farnborough and Mollington, are composed of the lower parts of the oolitic series, overlooking the valley of the Stour and the Vale of Evesham, which are occupied by beds of the lias formation. The lias appears again at Dunsmore Heath, and caps the hills between Stratford, Alcester, Warwick and Henley-in-Arden. The marlstone of this formation is quarried at Binton and Bidford. The Lickey Hills in the N.W. are mainly new red sandstone; but Lickey Beacon at the N. end is trap rock, a prolongation of the Abberley Hills. The Cotswold Hills on the S.W. are composed of the oolitic

formation. See also pp. 42, 73, and 104.

Botany.—The district is rich in wild flowers, but contains nothing of special rarity or interest. According to Mr J. E. Bagnall ("The Flora of Warwickshire," 1891), 852 out of the 1425 types of British plants are to be found in the valleys of the Avon, the Arrow, the Stour, the Alne and the Leam. The following occur in the list he gives of the rarer plants and trees which occur hereabouts - columbine, tower cress, wild liquorice, wild celery, camomile, hare's ear, yellow centaury, navel wort, five-leaved hen's foot, knotted hedge parsley, clustered bell-flower, traveller's joy, carline thistle, treacle-mustard, blue fleabane, crane's bill, water avens, hairy St John's wort, mare's tail,

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bear's foot, stinking bear's foot, roast beef plant, sheep's bit, everlasting pea, narrow-leaved pepper-wort, great wood-rush, mouse-tail, pennyroyal, water milfoil, dwarf forget-me-not, cockshead, water horsebane, bee orchis, hoary cinquefoil, creeping tormentil, great burnet saxifrage, greater spearwort, burnet rose, small-flowered sweetbriar, dyer's rocket, flixweed, stitchwort, black nightshade, English catch-fly, night-flowering catch-fly, glaucous bulrush, hairy violet, slender tare, small-leaved lime-tree, wild service tree, wild pear and dwarf cherry.

Sport.—The district is a great hunting country, and exceptionally well supplied with hounds. The N. Warwickshire kennel at Leek Wootton, the Warwickshire at Kineton, and besides these the Pytchley, the Atherstone, Mr Fernie's, the N. Cotswold and the Bicester all meet within reach from one spot or another in this region. The Warwick Races have four or five fixtures a year in the spring and autumn. Good coarse fishing can be had in all the rivers and streams; but though the Avon here and there in its upper reaches looks an ideal trout-stream, no trout are to be had. Much of the water is claimed by fishing-clubs and private owners, and strict enquiry should be made on the spot before fishing is attempted. From Stratford the Avon is navigable for pleasure boats of any size: they can be hired at Stratford, Bidford, Evesham, and other places.

There are Golf Clubs at all the principal places in the district.

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